

DIRECT ACTION

WEB
FEATURE

A special feature from DirectAction.org

from the DA Archives

GroundWork 03: Nuclear Waste - Part I

GroundWork was a successor to Direct Action newspaper – for which the novel *Direct Action* was named. In 1989, several former DA collective members joined a San Francisco-based collective publishing Green Letter magazine, loosely affiliated with the pre-Green Party grassroots Greens' movement.

In 1992, as the Greens morphed into an electoral party, we renamed the magazine GroundWork and became an independent grassroots voice. Circulation peaked at 8000 copies, with subscribers in almost every US state and Canadian province as well as across Europe.

Each issue offered general grassroots reporting as well as in-depth coverage of a particular theme. The issues on Nuclear Waste were the most comprehensive report available on this secretive and ever-shifting topic in the 1990s.

- GroundWork Issue 1 (1992) - 500 Years of Resistance
- GroundWork Issue 2 (1992) - Health and Organizing
- GroundWork Issue 3 (1993) - Nuclear Waste - Part I
- GroundWork Issue 4 (1994) - Nuclear Waste - Part II
- GroundWork Issue 5 (1995) - Grassroots Dialog
- GroundWork Issue 6 (1996) - Defending Our Forests
- GroundWork Issue 7 (1998) - Grassroots Overview

Download all seven issues at: DirectAction.org/groundwork/

Photo: 2011 Foreclose the Banks protest in downtown San Francisco, by Luke Hauser.

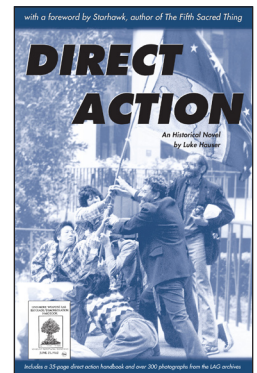


DIRECT ACTION

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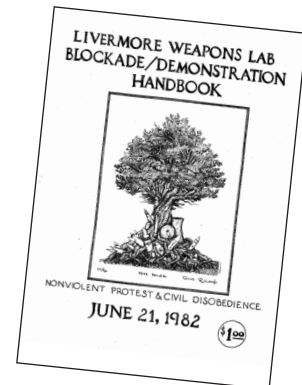


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Ground Work

Nuclear Waste — everyone's problem



- Government plans to site waste on Native American lands
- Activists across the country mobilize to resist toxic racism
- A global overview of government plans and citizen resistance

GroundWork Photo

GroundWork

GroundWork is a photo-news magazine covering community organizing, direct action, and other grassroots work. GroundWork was formerly called "Green Letter." Our fiscal sponsor is the Tides Foundation, San Francisco.

We feature regular coverage of many grassroots networks and issues, including women's organizing, Native American news, Greens, Nevada Test Site and nuclear issues, gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, Food Not Bombs, art & resistance, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, ACT UP, bioregionalists, Earth First!, and more.

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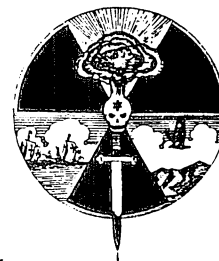
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Submitting Articles, Graphics & Photos to GroundWork

GroundWork welcomes reports from readers. You are our connection to the grass-roots in your area. We are particularly interested in accounts of events and actions, and appreciate analytical articles which are tied to specific organizing. We will consider press releases or original accounts of events.

Groups — Put us on your mailing list. We look through the dozens of publications we receive, to get ideas for stories. Also, consider getting bulk bundles of GroundWork to resell as a fundraiser for your group — see back inside cover.

Photographers: Photos are essential to our vision of GroundWork. We want photos of events, actions, art projects, community organizing and service, and alternative culture. We can return photos after using them, and will consider paying for processing, printing and mailing — please contact us first, at (415) 255-7623.

Artists: We appreciate receiving graphic work. Please do not send original artwork. High-quality xeroxes or stats are great; if you have your work scanned into a Mac format that can be read by Aldus Pagemaker, that works well too. But we are glad to accept xeroxed work.

Readers: Keep us in touch with your area. Show GroundWork to people you know. Ask groups to send us their newsletters. And when you are involved in a project, send us a photo and a short account.

If you can distribute sample copies at a conference, or to groups and bookstores in your area, let us know — call (415) 255-7623 or see back inside cover.

And please — Support us financially! We depend on your donations to publish GroundWork.

See back inside cover for ways you can help.

To our readers

GroundWork is a magazine by and for activists. We would like each reader to feel that GroundWork is your magazine—a forum for your articles, an outlet for your news, a gallery for your photos and artwork. And beyond that, we need your help distributing GroundWork, as if it were the newsletter of your favorite community organizing group.

Since our readers are activists, we decided to devote one full page in this issue (page 52) to a flyer about the magazine, which you can photocopy and post on community bulletin boards so that others may learn about us. We also invite you to distribute free sample copies of GroundWork at meetings and bookstores — see back inside cover.

A Time of Crisis

GroundWork is at a critical juncture. We volunteer almost all of the time and energy that it takes to produce this magazine (we pay a business coordinator, but the total stipend is just \$133 per month). But although we all donate time and funds to this project, none of us is in a position to underwrite the printing and mailing bills.

Funds have been scarcer than ever this past year. Only a few last-minute donations — including a very generous contribution from a war tax resister — made this issue possible. If we don't get major support from our readers in response to this issue, it will be our last. Your personal participation could make the difference.

As many of you know, we have a longstanding arrangement with the national Greens network, whereby we have printed a section devoted exclusively to Green news, in return for the Greens paying about a quarter of our operating expenses. We have seen this as a model for how we can relate to existing political networks and organizations. However, the Greens' financial crunch of the past year has left them unable to fulfill that commitment. As a result, more than six months have passed since the last issue of GroundWork, and in this issue, we have merged the Greens' news into our regular national news section. We appreciate the ongoing commitment of the Greens to our work, and are hopeful that a new agree-

ment can be reached. Meanwhile, we are more dependent than ever on our readers for support.

Our Vision

We publish the news that the mainstream ignores—what grassroots people are doing to build a multi-cultural, multi-issue movement. We alert activists to problems and problem-solvers throughout the country. Activists need to know what people in other movements and other parts of the country are doing, so we can support one another's work. We're sick of reading news that is skewed by corporate agendas and celebrity spectacles. Our goal is to document the history that regular people are making every day.

We consistently cover Native American struggles; the organizing efforts of groups like ACT UP, Food Not Bombs, the South West Organizing Project, Earth First!, Bioregionalists, and the Greens; and issues like homelessness, racism, the environment, war, nuclear weapons, etc. We teach feminist process, and provide a radical analysis within an international context.

We get our news in two ways—by doing some investigative reporting ourselves, and by printing articles and photos sent to us by you. Thanks to our readers for the photos and articles in this issue on housing in Portland, Earth Day in Milwaukee and Florida, and the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Rights.

We want to print your news. We can provide national publicity for your group or project. But we need to hear from you.

Focus of this Issue

This issue of GroundWork focuses on the problem of radioactive waste, and the growing movement to solve it. This problem has several aspects that activists often address separately: exploitation of poor people, people of color, and indig-

enous people; desecration of the environment; immediate and long-term health effects; and continued nuclear weapons production and development.

Radioactive waste is piling up at an alarming rate; no safe place has been found to put it; and governments are trying at this very moment to foist it off on vulnerable, oppressed people all over the globe. We present a synopsis of the mostly successful struggles around the U.S. and abroad to resist new "low-level" and high level nuclear waste dumps and work toward a nuclear-free future.

We need your Support

If the information in this issue seems important to you, please, PLEASE subscribe to GroundWork. We have not yet succumbed to the "recession" as have other alternative media like The Guardian (which ceased publication last year), but we won't be able to publish another issue without support from you.

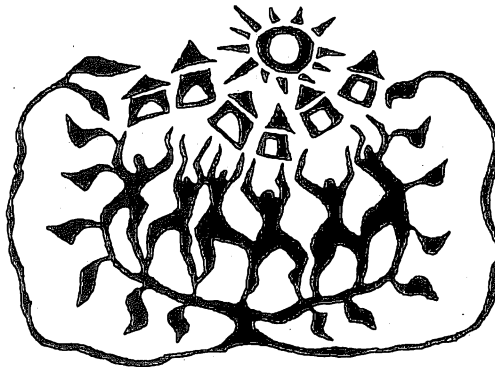
GroundWork's "overhead" is under \$300 per month for rent, phone, and a small stipend to our business coordinator. This means that almost every dollar

you send will go toward distribution of this issue and publication of the next one.

Can you become a GroundWork sustainer? We need a core of committed supporters who prioritize alternative media and know the importance of getting word about the grassroots out. The size of your donation is less important than the ongoing pledge to help us get this magazine published. Contributions to GroundWork are tax deductible. If you have questions, or help to offer, please contact us!

We are at a critical juncture for this magazine. Please don't let GroundWork become history — help us and help everyone working for social and ecological justice to make history!

Thanks for your interest and support,
the GroundWork Collective



Post-Environmentalism

by George Stump,
Moderate Environmentalist

There's been a lot of people gettin' educated about the environment recently, so I think we're gonna see some cuts in the education budget, along with the ones in the forest.

Although, with Mr. Gore and the whole owl-coddling crowd in power, you never know. These people are old-fashioned environmentalists. I'm beyond that — I like to think of myself as a post-environmentalist. That may not make sense to you, but it makes a whole lot of dollars for me, and I'm sure you'll agree that's a hundred times more important.

Forests

I have received many letters criticizin' the practice of clearcuttin'. Clearcuttin' is a misleading term. We're actually engaged in landscraping out there. And recycling: we're recycling the trees by making houses. And paper for you to write those letters on.

But we don't cut every tree. Some trees are so beautiful and rare that they should be put in a theme park, where people can find them more easily. Why should you have to walk all over creation huntin' for that one rare tree or bird or other theme species of your choice? You know, before modern forestry came on the scene, the forest was actually quite a mess, and frankly there was no place to live in this country.

I don't know if you know this, but one of the reason the Native American empires never got anywhere was that the trees were so tall that they could not see the way to the future. So we helped them out with that, harvestin' the forest so that the trees would no longer dominate the people. And they have thanked us ever since, from their own theme parks.

But let's be honest. If you ever take a walk in the forest you realize that people don't belong there. There's too many little critters bitin' your legs and you get those diseases that remind you that people belong in cities. We must make a distinc-

tion between people areas and nature areas.

But when you do interact with nature, you got to show it who's boss. Like when they had that big fire in the Oakland Hills, what you had there was not a typical grassland or typical urban fire. You had an

being 30%, 40% — we gotta teach them the skills of downsizin', just like we been doing here with the American worker.

Ozone

Ozone holes have got a bad rap. Those holes can be very useful. If you can maneuver some of them over your more



a stump by any other name is still a stump, chump.

area where nature was encroaching on an urban area. Just like that fire in New Jersey that was encroachin' on a nukular plant. That's nature movin' into an area that's not zoned for it. You got to put them in their place.

Overpopulation

We here in North America constitute 5% of the world's population. Yet we are consumin' 50% of the world's resources, and that shows you how efficient we are.

But we want to equalize that. At first we thought we would teach the other folks how to consume as well as we do, but on examinin' the figures more closely it turned out that there are only so many 50%'s to go around. So instead we're going to teach them to be a smaller percentage of the population. We're going to help them out with that. They're out there

polluted areas like Los Angeles and set up a battery of fans, juts plug em in, and blow that global warmitude right up through the hole, clean that sucker right out. Technology is a wonderful thing. Course, it may come back down, but if you're lucky, it'll come back down through Mexico City's hole. We're workin' on it.

In closin', do not be discouraged. It's a big environment, but by working together, we can make it human scale.

George Stump is a former staffer with the Environmental Prevention Agency, and a member of the consulting group Slash, Burn, Cash & Carry.

George Stump tours nationally, clearcutting all questions about the environment. Contact him care of Dave Lippman, PO Box 10764, Oakland CA 94610, 510-893-5845.



Storing Nuclear Waste

by Victoria Woodard

In this issue, GroundWork focuses on a world-wide crisis — the fact that there are no safe disposal sites for the vast quantities of radioactive waste that are piling up. Around the planet, wherever authorities have tried to open a dump, people have resisted.

Desperate to solve the problem, even if only temporarily, governments and corporations have tried to bribe people to accept the waste. Those most vulnerable to this tactic are poor communities.

In other cases, radioactive waste sites are being forced on people of color and indigenous people with no compensation.

This issue of GroundWork is focusing on commercial radioactive waste. In the U.S., we look at attempts to store high level waste on Native American lands, and at the struggles of environmental and community activists to resist new low level waste landfills.

We also present a summary of radioactive waste disposal plans — and resistance to them — worldwide.

A future issue will cover the even more extensive problem of military radioactive waste.

Nuclear power plants typically store their extremely hot spent fuel rods in pools of water next to their reactors for a few years, in anticipation of moving them to a permanent disposal site after they have cooled somewhat. The pools of a few commercial reactors in the U.S. will be full to capacity starting in 1995, but the likelihood of finding a safe permanent disposal site keeps receding into the ever distant future. [See "Stuck Holding the Nation's Nuclear Waste," pg. 10.]

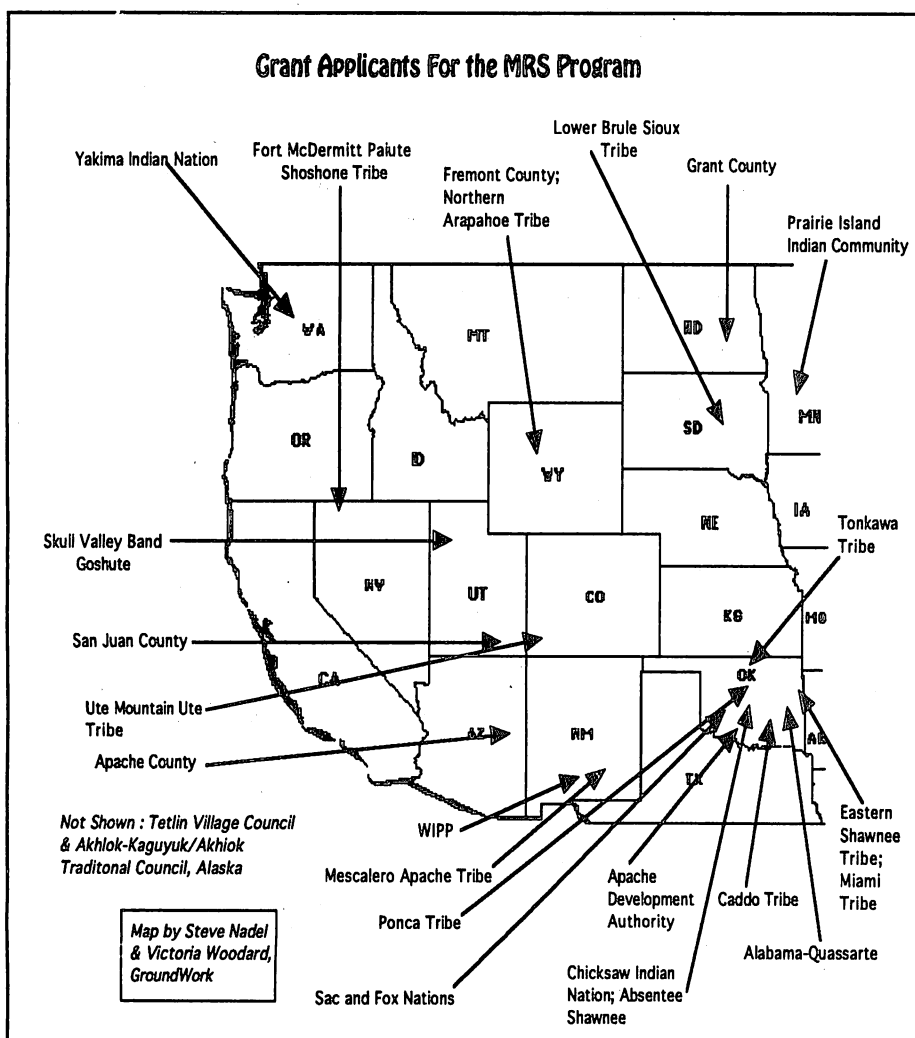
Recognizing that the nuclear power industry is in a serious crunch with nowhere to put its waste, Congress decided to look for volunteers to store spent fuel rods for 40 years. They hoped that in 40 years a permanent disposal site would be found. Following Congress's directive, in January 1992 the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator contacted every state and tribe in the U.S., offering cash and other forms of federal aid to any eligible unit of government who would accept a Monitored Retrievable Storage [MRS] site.

Problems with MRS

There are several problems with the MRS proposal. Transporting fuel rods from around the country to a single MRS site will be costly and dangerous. The General Accounting Office (Congress's research arm) concluded that "cost and safety factors do not favor an MRS facility over on-site storage." Safety concerns include risk of worker exposure to radiation while packaging the rods into steel or concrete casks for transport; risk of accident while transporting the casks; risk of disintegration over time of either the cask or the waste inside it (thereby contaminating the MRS site and making re-transport to a permanent disposal site chancy); and risk of fire, earthquake, flood, human tampering, etc. along the transport route or at the MRS site.

While finding a volunteer community to host an MRS site may have seemed more enlightened than forcing a high level waste [HLW] site on a community, the end result has been the same: poor, isolated rural communities, who seldom use nuclear power-generated electricity, end up with the waste. In this context, volunteerism begins to look like economic coercion. It also looks like environmental racism when you see that only

Grant Applicants For the MRS Program



on Native American Land

Native American tribes are still "volunteering."

Who volunteered?

Four Western counties and 20 Indian tribes [see map] applied for grants to consider siting an MRS within their jurisdiction. Grant County, North Dakota, was the first to withdraw its application, when voters removed the county commissioners who accepted a \$100,000 grant. Also under pressure from citizens, the governors of Arizona, Wyoming, and Utah vetoed the applications of Apache, Fremont, and San Juan Counties respectively.

Several Oklahoma tribes withdrew their applications: Sac and Fox, Chickasaw, Absentee Shawnee, Caddo and Alabama-Quassarte; so did the lower Brule Sioux in South Dakota. The Yakima Nation in Washington returned its \$99,710 grant, unused. The applications of 2 Alas-

kan tribes and the Apache Development Authority in Oklahoma were denied, as was that of a private enterprise, Fifield Development Corporation in Wisconsin. Tribes whose applications remain active are:

- Mescalero Apache in New Mexico
- Skull Valley Band of the Goshute Tribe in Utah
- Prairie Island Indian Community in Minnesota
- Ute Mountain Ute in Colorado
- Northern Arapahoe in Wyoming
- Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone in Nevada
- Miami; Eastern Shawnee; and Tonkawa tribes in Oklahoma.

Since the government offered \$100,000 just to think about the MRS, it's difficult to learn the motives of the applicants and whether they intend (now that they have learned more about it) to actually store HLW. Still, since the future of the nuclear power industry depends on finding a repository for its waste, the status of these applications is crucially important. Below, and in Gayle Hudgens' article on the Mescalero Apache [See page 8], GroundWork offers its analysis of the situation.

Skull Valley Band of Goshute

The Skull Valley Goshute in western Utah have received Phase I and Phase IIA grants. To put their application in context, their reservation is completely encircled by hazardous waste facilities, including chemical weapons storage, biological weapons testing, and planned toxic waste incinerators. In the past, they turned down a corporate offer to build a toxic waste incinerator on their land, after they learned

Continued next page

Where in the World???

International Resistance to Waste Siting

By Nicholas Lenssen

Scientists have yet to find a permanent and safe way to dispose of radioactive waste. Governments continue to promote the use of nuclear power without having any sure knowledge that a solution to this haunting problem is near, or indeed that the problem can be solved at all.

Most governments had decided by the 1960s that burying nuclear waste deep in the earth was the best means of protecting the public. Yet, it is now clear that geologic burial cannot guarantee that these materials will remain sealed off from the biosphere. The plans proposed so far have been found to be vulnerable—over time—to one kind of disruption or another, ranging from tectonic crushing or chemical bursting of containers to the corrosive and contamination-spreading action of groundwater. Nor have past efforts worked as planned: old burial and storage sites have proved leaky.

[Following is a global synopsis of radioactive waste disposal attempts, and citizen responses to it — ed.]

France

In 1987 the French announced 4 potential sites for burying high-level radioactive wastes. Local government officials joined with farmers and environmentalists to stop the research program. Blockades obstructed government technicians, and geologic survey work proceeded only with police protection. In January 1990, 15,000 people marched against the Maine-et-Loire site in west central France.

In June 1991 the number of sites

continued on page 7



Greenpeace "dumped" a giant nuclear waste barrel on the steps of the Utah State Capitol on 10/21/92, asking Utah gubernatorial candidates to oppose San Juan County's application for an MRS nuclear waste site. On 1/13/93 Governor Mike Leavitt responded by cancelling the application. Photo by Jason Salzman.



Storing Nuclear Waste

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about the short- and long-term dangers associated with it.

The feasibility study they contracted for raises many concerns. Since applying for the MRS grant, the tribe sent representatives to the 1992 Protect Mother Earth Conference sponsored by the Indigenous Environmental Network. Their representatives signed the resolution that came out of that gathering, calling for an end to uranium mining, milling, testing, reprocessing, storage and disposal on Indian lands; an end to the production of nuclear waste; and development of safe, renewable energy services.

[Sources: Greenpeace, Citizen Alert Native American Program.]

Prairie Island

The Mdewakantan Sioux on Prairie Island, Minnesota, filed an application for MRS funds so they could gain a voice in decisions being made to store spent fuel rods in dry casks just 700 meters from their community. The storage site would be on land annexed from their reservation 20 years ago so Northern States Power Company [NSP] could build a steam plant (or so they were told).

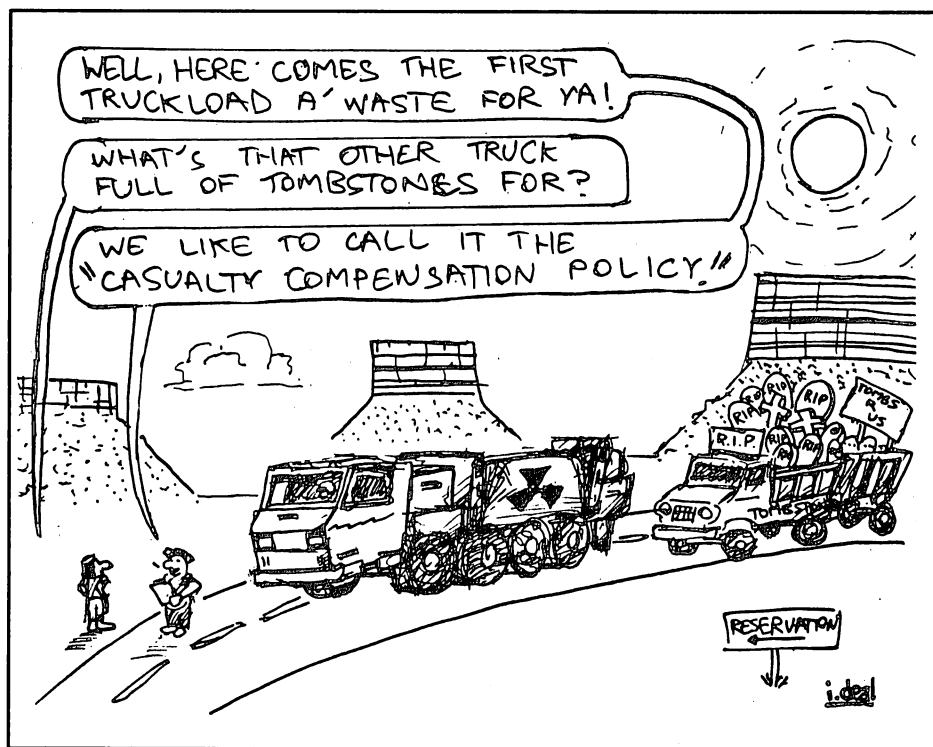
NSP built two nuclear reactors. In exchange, the Mdewakantan got a playground and a risk of death by cancer that is six times what the Minnesota Department of Health considers acceptable.

By 1995, the two Prairie Island reactors will be among the first in the U.S. to reach indoor storage capacity. With nowhere to send its spent fuel rods, NSP is faced with cutting back production or building an outdoor, dry cask storage facil-

ity. Their proposal to store the waste only temporarily, and their argument that the storage site would be part of an existing facility rather than new, allowed them to avoid oversight by the state legislature and

Paiute Shoshone

Both the 750-member Paiute Shoshone tribe and nearby Ft. McDermitt, a town of 200 on the Nevada-Oregon border, have suffered since the McDermitt



to secure approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission [PUC]. Hazel O'Leary, the new DOE Secretary, advocated storing the fuel rods on-site at Prairie Island when she worked as an executive of NSP.

The Mdewakantan are using their Phase I grant to educate tribal members about the proposed facility and to ensure that a site characterization is done on it. The PUC did not require a site characterization before OK-ing the facility. The site is a sandy island in the Mississippi River. It was under water in a 1965 flood, and is on a major earthquake fault that runs along the river.

Construction on the waste facility was halted until spring 1993 by an injunction won by the Prairie Island Coalition, which includes the Mdewakantan and about 30 environmental, peace and justice, student, and farm groups. The coalition is united in calling for an end to nuclear waste production.

[Sources: Citizen Alert Native American Program, Greenpeace, New York Times, 1/9/93]

mercury mine closed over two years ago. The tribe was told that initial construction of an MRS site will create more than 1,000 jobs, and operating the site will provide up to 750 permanent positions for which the government will provide training. In this context, the tribal leadership applied for and received a Phase I grant.

When tribal members complained that they weren't informed about the proposed project, the DOE organized an informational meeting on February 19, 1993. Tribal members who opposed the MRS asked Indian activists from several states to participate. Opponents gave a presentation in the morning, followed by DOE in the afternoon. The tribe's application for a Phase IIA grant was processed on the first working day after the conference—obviously too soon for tribal members to let the Tribal Council know what they think of the project.

If the tribe decides to build an MRS site, it will most likely be on the part of their reservation that is in Oregon. Since Congress mandated that Yucca Mountain, Nevada, be the only site considered for a

Victoria (Tori) Woodard became an anti-nuclear activist in 1982, with the large demonstrations at Livermore Lab. She lives in Healdsburg, California, volunteers with BAN Waste Coalition, and is a member of the GroundWork collective.

Ivar Diehl (I. Deal) is in seventh grade at Martin Luther King, Jr. Junior High School in Berkeley, California. At ten, he was arrested at the Federal Building in San Francisco, protesting the Gulf war.

on Native American Land

permanent HLW repository, Nevada cannot be required also to accept an MRS.

[Sources: *Las Vegas Sun* (12/7/92), *Greenpeace*, Grace Thorpe.]

Oklahoma applicants

To learn the status of MRS applications in Oklahoma, I called Grace Thorpe, a Sac and Fox senior citizen who organizes against nuclear waste on Indian land. Her tribe was the first in Oklahoma to withdraw its application for an MRS grant—based on a vote of the membership. They didn't want their name associated with nuclear waste, were concerned about health and safety issues, and thought it wasn't a good legacy for their children.

The Eastern Shawnee, located in the northeast corner of Oklahoma near Miami, are still considering hosting an MRS site. Their application for a Phase IIA grant is under review by the DOE. According to the Thorpe, the federal government gave them 1000 acres to put in trust for an MRS site. The small tribe has also agreed to host a medical waste incinerator.

The Miami tribe, also near Miami, Oklahoma, applied for a Phase IIA grant in March 1993, without ever applying for Phase I.

The story of the Ponca and Tonkawa tribes is very illustrative. The Ponca tribe authorized the Ponca Industrial Corporation (run by tribal leader John King) to apply for a Phase I grant. The corporation received a \$100,000 grant, spent some of it

arranging trips for tribal members to nuclear power plants, probably spent some of it on lawyers' fees, and kept the rest as consultant's fees. The Ponca tribe received none of the money. When King asked the tribal council to let him apply for Phase IIA, the council refused. King then approached the Tonkawa tribe, located just north of the Ponca, who allowed his corporation to apply for a Phase IIA grant on their behalf.

Both tribes are located near Ponca City in north central Oklahoma. However, Tonkawa officials told the *Tulsa World* that they intend to put the MRS site on land in Nevada or Colorado.

Indian land unregulated

Having Indians put land in trust seems to be the latest scheme in waste management: the tribe either buys or is given land some distance from their reservation; federal and state environmental laws then do not apply on that land because of Indian sovereignty; tribal members complain less about proposed projects that would be off the reservation; and tribal councils look forward to receiving revenue from the waste site.

Henry Ebert, assistant to the Nuclear Waste Negotiator, told me that the Office of the Negotiator will negotiate with the governor of any state in which an Indian tribe is considering acquiring land for an MRS site. However, once a tribe legally puts the land in trust, the Negotiator will negotiate with the tribe.

Other recent applicants

The Ute Mountain Ute tribe in southwestern Colorado and the Northern Arapahoe in Fremont County, Wyoming, both applied for Phase IIA grants before the March 31, 1993 deadline. As stated above, the governor of Wyoming already nixed an MRS site in Fremont County, but he has no jurisdiction over Indian reservations. To complicate matters further, the Northern Arapahoe share the Wind River Reservation with the Shoshone Nation, who oppose an MRS site.

DOE changes tactics

In December 1992 DOE announced that it is making contingency plans for High Level Waste, should none of the "volunteer" MRS sites work out. Under-

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Where in the World???

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to be investigated [was reduced] from 4 to 2. Officials hope to convince communities to accept site investigations by paying local treasuries up to \$9 million a year for the "psychological inconvenience" of being studied. Decision on a final site is delayed for 15 years, and then Parliament will make the final decision. Meanwhile, the country's high-level waste inventory will more than triple.

Germany

In Germany nuclear reactor construction has come to a standstill with 21 plants built. Local opposition to any nuclear project, and inability of major political parties to agree on nuclear policy, are deeply entrenched. The waste program is caught in a similar debate.

Since the 1960s, German policy has been to bury deeply all wastes. The low-level site at Asse was closed in 1978, due to local opposition and stability problems. Public opposition and technical uncertainties also delayed work at the replacement site, the abandoned iron ore mine at Schacht Konrad. As a result, low-level wastes have been piling up. Hopes that the low-level waste dump at Morsleben in the former East Germany could handle the waste were dampened when the facility was closed in early 1991.

Public opposition has also frustrated Germany's attempt to develop a high-level waste burial site. In 1976, the federal government's first 3 investigation sites in Lower Saxony created such an uproar among local farmers and students that the state government rejected them. The following year, the federal government selected a salt dome at Gorleben, in Lower Saxony, along what was then the East German border. Large protests erupted even before the official

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Contacts

- Citizen Alert Native American Program, P.O. Box 5339, Reno NV 89513 (702/827-5511)
- Greenpeace, 139 Townsend, San Francisco CA 94109 (415/512-9025)
- Native Americans for a Clean Environment [NACE], PO Box 1671, Tahlequah OK 74463 (918/458-4322)
- Prairie Island Community Center, 1158 Island Blvd, Welch MN 55089 (800/554-5473); local callers: 612/385-2554.
- Grace Thorpe, 100 Watson Drive, Apartment N-2, Yale OK 74085 (918/387-2162)



Mountain Gods and

by Gayle Hudgens

Without consulting tribal members, Wendell Chino, president of the Mescalero-Apache Tribal Council, entered the so-called "voluntary siting process" of the U.S. government to find a host for the MRS. Tribal members were shocked to learn in 10/91 that Chino was flirting with high-level nuclear waste. The news likewise jolted their Hispanic and Anglo neighbors.

A pristine alpine paradise in the south central mountains of New Mexico, the reservation sports multi-million-dollar recreation developments like Inn of the Mountain Gods and Ski Apache. Other thriving enterprises include ranching, a sawmill, a fish hatchery, and bingo. Still, most of the 3,300 descendants of (primarily) Geronimo and Cochise live in poverty while top leaders and their kin enjoy luxury.

Early on, two consultants tantalized this appetite for opulence. Jim B. Tollison,

program manager for Science Applications International Corporation of Albuquerque, worked with tribal leadership for more than a year before going public about applying for Phase I money (\$100,000). "I think this is a huge opportunity," he told the Lincoln County Commissioners in 10/91. "I think we may be talking an \$8 billion to \$25 billion opportunity."

Miller Hudson, spokesperson for Pacific Nuclear Systems, Inc., the Seattle consulting firm overseeing the nuclear waste study for the Mescaleros, told the commissioners: "The negotiation terms are wide open. You can put in demands for schools, roads.... We only get one opportunity to cut the cake and we want to make sure everyone gets a piece of the cake."

Although no credible source has agreed with the billion dollar figures thrown around, tribal leaders have continued to pursue the MRS "opportunity" in the face of opposition from New Mexico

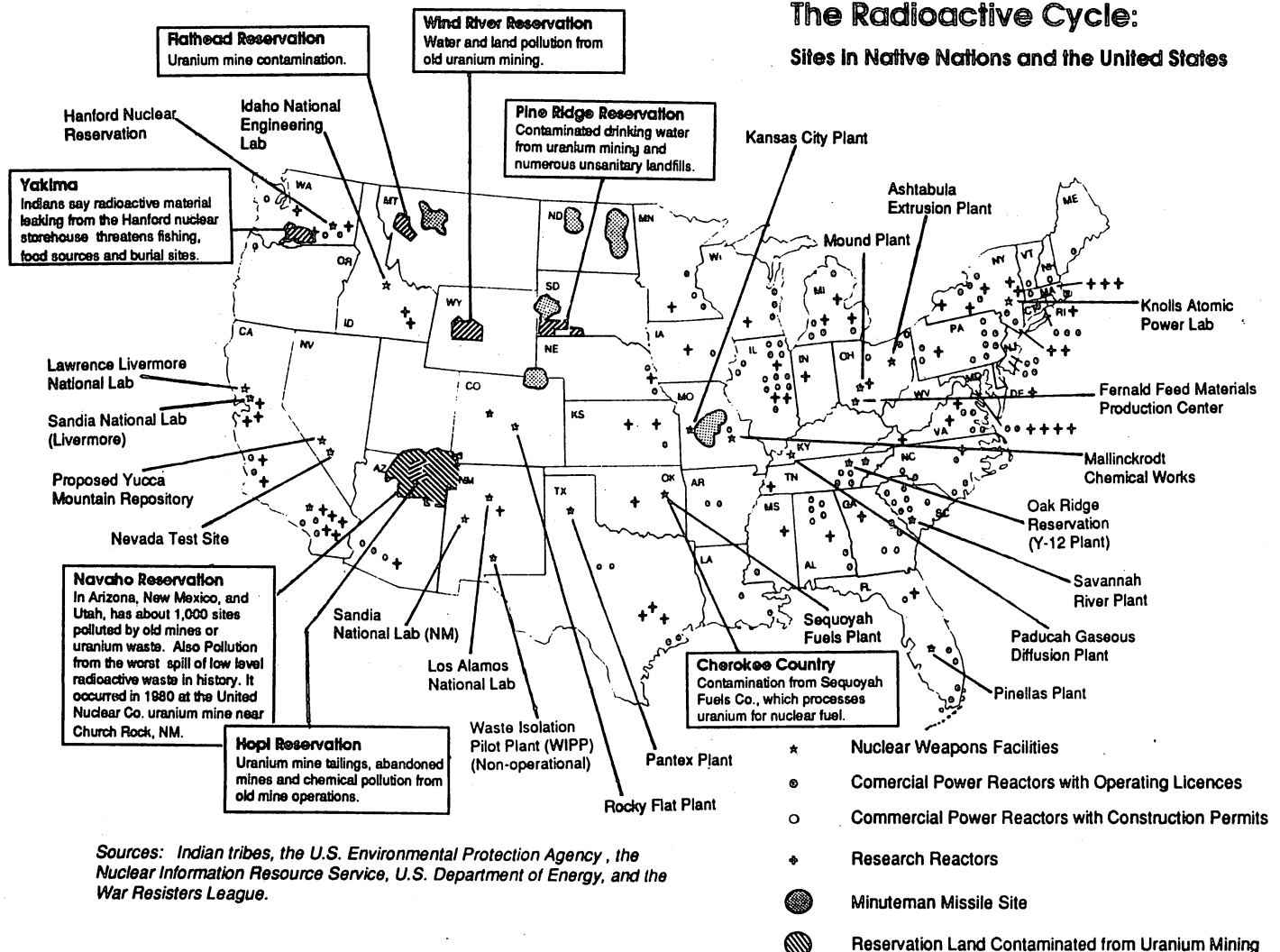
Governor Bruce King, U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici, the Lincoln and Chaves County Commissioners, and a number of town councils in the region. For two months, beginning in 11/91, The Ruidoso News ran my 7-part series entitled "Megabucks and Hot Rods, the MRS Saga." During that time polls showed enormous opposition among the rank and file of the tribe and among Ruidoso area citizens.

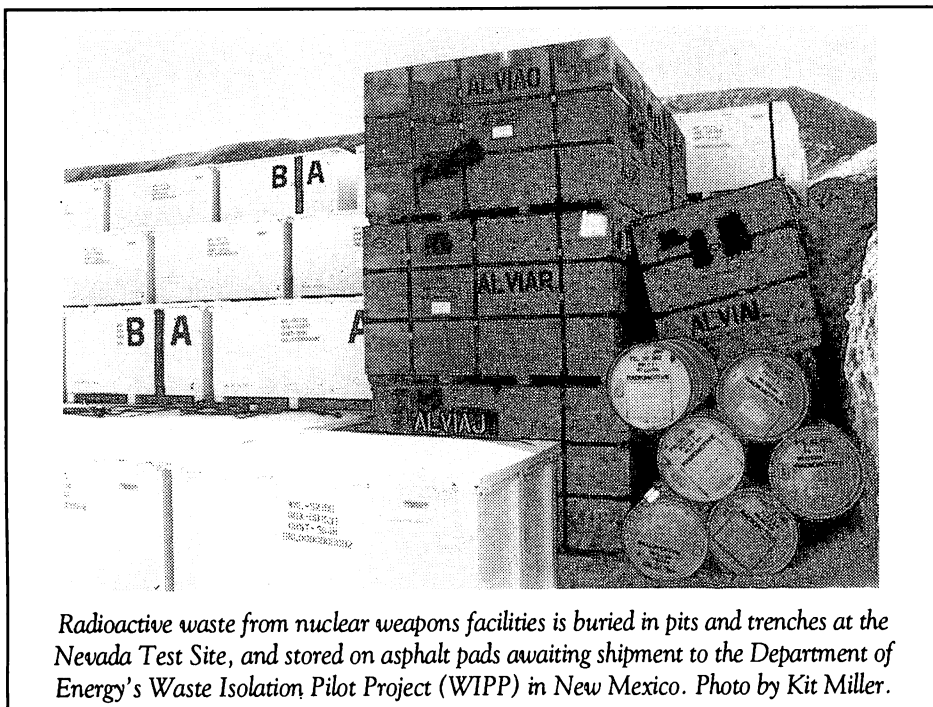
Pro-nuke leadership and popular opposition

The pro-nuke tribal leadership met the popular opposition with strong doses of intimidation. Tribal members fear the loss of their jobs or other reprisals if they speak out against the MRS. Harlyn Geronimo, a sculptor, frequent candidate for Chino's position, and grandson of the famous warrior, found rattlesnakes thrown in his driveway and his horses shot. His brother,

The Radioactive Cycle:

Sites in Native Nations and the United States





Radioactive waste from nuclear weapons facilities is buried in pits and trenches at the Nevada Test Site, and stored on asphalt pads awaiting shipment to the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico. Photo by Kit Miller.

Joseph, discovered his driveway littered with shattered glass and the tail lights busted out of his pickup. "The white man tried to kill us and couldn't, so now Chino's going to do it for them by bringing this thing in," Joseph said shortly after DOE awarded Phase II-A funding (\$200,000) in 4/92.

The tentacles of intimidation apparently now reach beyond the reservation. No one knows just what has happened, but the tenor of opposition has changed. In 1/93, for example, page 1 of *The Ruidoso News* carried the full text of a speech to the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management by Fred Peso, Tribal Secretary and MRS Project Director who has been groomed as Chino's successor. Peso said in part, "The tribal council is genuinely interested in proceeding to negotiations.... We would like to try and reach an MRS agreement on behalf of the tribe and its neighbors that would benefit our children and their children.... We are concerned with the future... of our children and generations yet to come. We wish for them to be self-sufficient and self-reliant as their ancestors were. But that self-sufficiency must be sought in a new world, a world where nuclear power does and will exist."

In 2/93 the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness (the nuclear lobby) bankrolled a trip of more than a dozen civic leaders

from the Ruidoso area to visit Oconee and Surrey nuclear power plants on the East Coast. As a result, the editor of *The Ruidoso News* (who a year ago was editorializing against the MRS) is now saying, "Seeing is believing."

On 3/5/98, Ronald Milder, the DOE's Associate Director for Storage and Transportation, told me in a phone interview that DOE would support parallel paths of 1) federal siting by Congress, and 2) allowing the "voluntary" process to go forward. In light of the emphatic condemnation of the MRS by New Mexico officials at every level as well as the intense local opposition, the Mescalero case is anything but "voluntary". The whole concept of a voluntary process implies democracy and the absence of greed and intimidation. The Mescalero case is little more than a sham mired in environmental racism.

Gayle Hudgens lives in Hope, New Mexico, where she and her husband run Hope Organic Produce, Etc. (The Mescalero Reservation is 35 miles northeast of Hope; WIPP about 70 miles southeast.) She has published in The Nation and the Texas Observer. In 1992 she served on the New Mexico NORM Taskforce which recommended regulating oilfield radioactive wastes. She is on the Advisory Committee of the Water Information Network and edits The Hope Herald.

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announcement. 2,500 people took over the drilling site for 3 months before police hauled them off and set up a secure camp from which scientific work could be conducted.

Although the federal government is counting on Gorleben, continuing technical problems and protests make plans to bury waste by 2008 highly unrealistic. The site's geology is unstable, and groundwater from neighboring sand and gravel layers is eroding the salt that forms the dome.

Sweden

In Sweden, nuclear issues have been erupting since the 1970s, when two governments were thrown out of office over nuclear energy policies. Only after a national referendum in 1980, and Parliament's subsequent decision to limit the number of reactors in the country to 12 and to phase them out by 2010, was the country able to focus on waste issues. One immediate dividend from the agreed phase-out was a clarification of exactly how much waste would eventually need to be dealt with.

Sweden has avoided major siting problems by locating both of its operating waste facilities next to power plants. Irradiated fuel is temporarily stored 30 meters underground at the CLAB facility alongside the Oskarshamn nuclear power plant. Since 1988, low-level wastes have been placed in a mined cavern 50 meters below the Baltic Sea near Forsmark power plant.

Swedish public support has not come as easily for deep burial of irradiated fuel as for low-level waste. Protests halted attempts to site a permanent high-level burial facility 10 years ago. Efforts to explore other sites have met determined local opposition. The government is likely to focus once again on a reactor site

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by Valerie Taliman

In 1993, as Native Americans look towards the next 500 years, an ominous cloud looms on the horizon — the danger that the three percent of U.S. land remaining in tribal hands may soon become permanent dumping grounds for radioactive, high-level nuclear waste. Twenty tribes applied for grants from the U.S. Nuclear Waste Negotiator to study the prospect of

Native American land targeted by government plans

“temporarily” storing nuclear waste for a half-century.

The storage of highly toxic, used nuclear fuel rods from the nation’s 111 commercial nuclear reactors will be ‘temporary’ only if the proposed permanent repository is built at Yucca Mountain, Nevada,

on land stolen from the Western Shoshone Nation.

Following a 5.6 magnitude earthquake that rocked Yucca Mountain on June 29, 1992, members of the scientific community are joining unrelenting public and political opposition in arguing that Yucca Mountain is unsuitable for storing deadly nuclear waste for 10,000 years.

The site chosen for the Yucca Mountain underground storage complex shows evidence of earthquake and volcanic activity, contains 32 known earthquake faults, and lies only 500 feet above a major aquifer.

Who do You Trust ????

In late spring 1992, DOE’s chief scientist for the project, Jerry Szymanski, quit his post, saying that he would not be part of DOE’s propaganda, which borders on “scientific fraud.” Szymanski, a geologist, authored a DOE report that illustrated the danger of ground water surging up underneath the subterranean complex, creating compressed steam upon contact with the super hot steel canisters of nuclear waste. Szymanski and other scientists warned that the steam could “blow the top off the mountain” and create a nuclear holocaust of unimaginable proportions.

Shortly after his report was issued,



A mock nuclear waste cask rolled through San Francisco during the April 1st, 1993 annual St. Stupid’s Day Parade. DOE plans to ship these casks via interstate and rail from the nation’s 110 nuclear power plants to an MRS facility, then, later, to Yucca Mountain.

Photo by Rachel Johnson.

Storing Nuclear Waste on Native American Land

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secretary Hugo Pomrehn said DOE is considering storing HLW at the Idaho National Engineering Lab [INEL] or the Savannah River Plant, and/or compensating nuclear power plants for storing it on-site.

Neither Idaho governor Cecil Andrus nor Shoshone-Bannock Indians living there will be happy with this plan; they have repeatedly tried to halt shipments of commercial spent fuel to INEL (which, incidentally, was “volunteered” to receive the Three Mile Island cleanup waste). South Carolina is looking forward to closing the Barnwell “low level” radioactive waste dump next to the Savannah River Plant, and can hardly be happy to hear

more waste is on its way.

Nuclear power plants presently tax rate-payers for the Nuclear Waste Fund, which is paying the costs of investigating Yucca Mountain and selling the MRS idea. Should nuclear power plants have to store the waste themselves, they want to be compensated.

What you can do

When I asked what non-Indians could do to help fight nuclear waste on Indian lands, Grace Thorpe suggested writing to O’Leary, Clinton, Bruce Babbitt (Interior Secretary), Daniel Inouye (chair of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs), and Bill Richardson (director of a

new House Committee on Indian Affairs).

It is important to support Indian sovereignty in this issue, just as it is in disputes over Indian land, water, hunting, fishing, grazing, and religious rights. However, in several cases tribal councils (which were set up by the U.S. government) submitted applications for MRS grants without consulting tribal membership. Many Native languages don’t have words for “nuclear,” “radioactivity,” or “hazardous.” In these cases it is doubtful that tribal members are fully informed about radioactive health hazards. Another way to help is to send donations to or work with the contacts listed in the box on page 7 of this issue.

Nation's Nuclear Waste

DOE assembled a panel of other government scientists that dismissed Szymanski's theory and maintained the project was safe. The public remains skeptical.

As opposition to the Yucca Mountain project continues to grow, it appears unlikely that the repository will ever be built. The project, slated to open in 2010, is already 12 years behind schedule and the \$32.5 billion cost to taxpayers continues to swell.

If the project is scrapped, then those tribes or states that have opted to "temporarily" store nuclear waste rods in "monitored retrievable storage" (MRS) sites will be left holding the nation's nuclear waste for lack of any other option. A little known provision in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act, which established the MRS alternative and the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator, requires MRS recipients to waive their right to sue the U.S. government in the event of an accident or unforeseen circumstances which prevent the nuclear waste from being removed at the end of the contract period.

History reflects that the U.S. government's record of failing to live up to its "contracts" with Indian Nations is both tragic and criminal. The U.S. has failed to uphold *even one* of more than 800 treaties it negotiated with Indian Nations in this country, 370 of which were ratified by Congress and then violated.

The nuclear industry, the military weapons production complex, and DOE also have weak track records on public health and safety issues, especially where Native Nations are concerned. Thousands of Native people in the U.S. and Canada have died or suffered health consequences from the mining, processing and enriching of uranium for nuclear fuels and weapons.

Many tribal leaders have labeled the MRS proposals "economic blackmail" because the government is offering huge economic incentives. "In the old days, they gave us smallpox-infested blankets," says Oklahoma Sac and Fox elder Grace Thorpe. "Today, they're giving us nuclear waste. We can't look at this for short-term

monetary gains. It's an issue of survival for Native people."

DOE provides \$100,000 for Phase I grants to conduct feasibility studies on socioeconomic impacts, \$200,000 for Phase II-A grants to continue the process, and Phase II-B

grants of up to \$3,000,000 to actually

identify a site and enter into an agreement with the Nuclear Waste Negotiator. Any state or tribe that accepts an MRS can receive up to \$5 million per year.

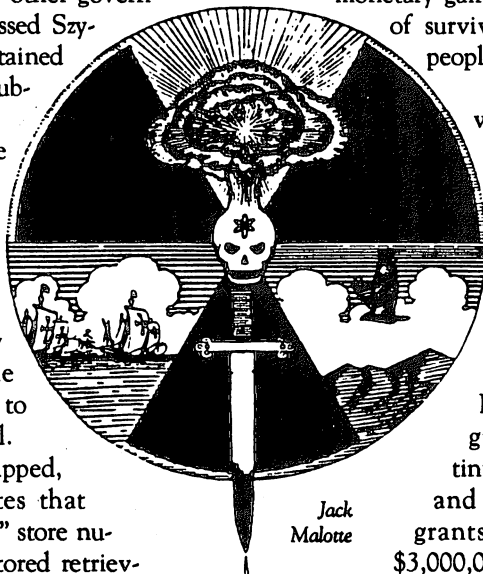
While some tribes have turned back DOE checks under pressure from tribal members, others including Minnesota's Prairie Island Nation, the Skull Valley Goshute of Utah and the Lower Brule Sioux of South Dakota have said they applied for the funds to conduct studies that will prove that the MRS option is unsafe for their communities.

Northwest tribes who live along the Columbia River — downstream from DOE's Hanford Nuclear Reservation that has polluted the region for 40 years — warn others about living with the legacy of nuclear waste that is causing mutations in the salmon they depend on spiritually, socially and economically.

"I think (the MRS strategy) is genocide aimed at Indian people," said traditional Chief Johnny Jackson of the Klickitat Nation. "We'll suffer the consequences of poisoning our rivers, our traditional foods and our land with nuclear waste. Even if tribes say they just want to study it, the U.S. government intends to hook tribes with the money. I know from experience that the government never gives you money for nothing."

Valerie Taliman is a Diné (Navajo) environmental writer living in Bishop, California.

This article originally appeared in Race, Poverty and the Environment, 300 Broadway #28, San Francisco CA 94133.



Jack Malotte

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for its final irradiated fuel repository.

England

Old reactors could become permanent fixtures in many countries. The United Kingdom has become the first nation to give up on the notion of dismantling its reactors and is now planning to entomb them for at least 130 years.

Japan & China

Japan has one of the world's few remaining nuclear construction programs, with work progressing on 11 new reactors to add to the existing 41. But public opposition has grown since the Chernobyl accident. No new reactor sites have been approved since 1986, and attempts to locate waste facilities have proved equally controversial. Serious efforts to deal with nuclear waste didn't begin until the early 1980s, when Japan started switching on reactors ordered in the 1970s, and waste began piling up.

The nuclear industry selected the village of Rokkasho on the north tip of Honshu Island to house a complex for reprocessing, high-level waste storage, and low-level waste burial. Opposition to Rokkasho was quieted by the distribution of large amounts of money. The Japanese government offered \$120 million to the village—about \$10,000 for each resident. An additional \$120 million was offered to surrounding villages. The amounts are small when compared with the project's price tag of \$9 billion, but Rokkasho is located in Japan's second poorest prefecture.

While Rokkasho is expected to be the temporary storage place for high-level waste being returned from reprocessors in Europe, attempts to locate a final burial site have so far been thwarted by public opposition. In 1984, planners again looked to a

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"Low Level" Radioactive Waste Dumps Target

by Victoria Woodard

In our last issue, GroundWork carried an introductory article on "low level" radioactive waste [LLRW] dumps. For this issue we contacted citizen groups in areas where the pressure to open new LLRW landfills is strongest, in order to provide an update on the situation nationwide. Typically these landfills are proposed for poor, rural areas, many of whose residents are people of color.

LLRW dumps are being promoted as disposal sites for medical waste. In fact, medical waste is a tiny percentage of LLRW [see charts, page 16], and some very long-lived and highly radioactive materials are destined for these sites as well. For example, the current plan for decommissioning the nation's 100 commercial nuclear power plants is to cut them up, haul them to these dumps, and bury them in unlined trenches.

Pressed by the federal government, states are joining together in compacts to find disposal sites for commercial radioactive waste generated within their borders. Compact membership is shown in the accompanying map.

Nuclear industry backed into corner

Each year the nuclear industry has fewer and fewer options for LLRW disposal. The State of Nevada closed down the Beatty, Nevada LLRW landfill on 1/1/93, for repeated violations. (For example, because the dump operator U.S. Ecology had lax security, local residents were scavenging irradiated tools from it.) Also on 1/1/93, the Richland, Washington LLRW landfill closed to everyone but members of the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Compacts. The Barnwell, South Carolina LLRW dump is presently the only repository for LLRW from the rest of the country. It was scheduled to close 1/1/93, but because no new LLRW dump had opened as planned, it agreed to stay open—but only until 6/94.

Barnwell is adjacent to the Savannah River Plant, 20 miles south of Aiken near the Georgia border. Beatty is a few miles west of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. Richland is just south of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, next to the Columbia River.

Southeast Compact

Both sites being considered in North Carolina are in poor communities. 300 people live on the Richmond site, 2 miles southeast of Rockingham, less than 2 miles from the South Carolina border. They are well organized and have formed FORRCE [For Richmond County's Environment] to fight the dump. Half of them are African Americans, many of whose families have lived there since Reconstruction. There are also Native Americans in the community. All will have to move if the dump goes in.

The Richmond site is so sandy that its surface water reaches groundwater within 30 years. This means groundwater will be contaminated if any radioactive drums leak. A clay layer was recently discovered seven feet below the surface. It causes water to pool and move laterally, thus potentially carrying contaminants off-site. A final problem with this site is that South Carolina has threatened to close the Barnwell dump if a LLRW dump is sited within ten miles of its border.

Forty percent of the second proposed site, on the Wake/Chattam County line about 25 miles southwest of Raleigh, is on the property of the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant. The extensive fractures in the rock under the site, and the springs and streams that Chem Nuclear (who wants to run the dump) overlooked, make

it impossible to predict the spread of radioactivity from the site. Wake and Chattam Counties are predominantly African American.

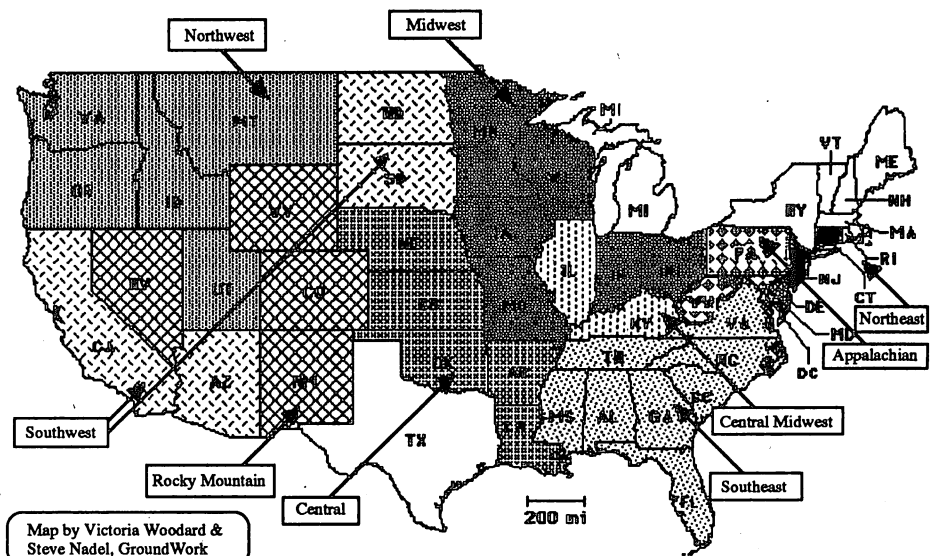
Activists around the state recently formed a coalition, which is developing proposed legislation. They seek a single state plan, no removal of waste from reactor sites, and no proliferation of contaminated areas. While they would allow Shearon Harris to store its own nuclear waste, they don't want waste from other states. As a result of their work, in April, 1993 the North Carolina legislature began a full review of all LLRW management issues.

In January 1993 the Nuclear Information and Resource Service [NIRS] published a report on medical radioactive waste. North Carolina activists published a North Carolina companion to the NIRS report, describing how each hospital in the state handles its radioactive waste. They are developing fact sheets to educate a new governor and new legislators. They've held many rallies and sponsored events around a schoolteacher's walk from the Richmond site to Washington, DC.

Midwest Compact

The Ohio State Greens are taking the lead in efforts to stop a LLRW landfill in their state. Ohio is the third state in the Midwest Compact to be nominated to host

State Compact Membership





A protest rally to oppose siting of nuclear waste dumps in North Carolina was attended by 400 people. Photo by Laura Drey, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Glendale Springs NC.

the dump. The Compact threw Michigan out when Michigan insisted that its strict wetlands laws be upheld. Illinois pulled out when other Compact states refused to share liability.

The Compact hired Ohio State University to hold public hearings around Ohio on where the dump should be. The Greens first focused on getting people to testify at those hearings, which ended in April 1993. The overwhelming majority of testimony addressed whether the dump should be built at all.

Activists hope the "Blue Ribbon Commission" which held the hearings will decide not to build a dump. If they decide to go ahead, the proposed site will likely be in southern Ohio, where people are poor and unemployed. (Most activists live in Toledo, Athens, Columbus, or Cleveland.)

The Ohio Greens' position on nuclear waste is 1) Ohio must withdraw from the Midwest Compact; 2) reclassify radioactive waste; 3) ban the production of all long-lived or highly radioactive waste; 4) permanently isolate all waste in continuously monitored, above ground retrievable storage at or near the site where it is gen-

erated; 5) phase out the use of nuclear and fossil fuel power.

Central Compact

Boyd County, Nebraska, was also chosen to host a LLRW landfill because of its demographics. Its 3000 people are mostly low income, high school educated (or less), many retired, and largely Republican and Catholic. The county proved to be more resistant than the nuclear industry expected: they formed Save Boyd County Association [SBCA], which now has 2000 members and a solid core of 150! Housewives have been especially resistant to the dump.

In December 1992, 93% of the voters opposed the dump in a non-binding referendum held in Boyd County. As a result, the state has sued the Central Compact for lack of community consent. Community consent was one of the 10 conditions under which Nebraska agreed to host the dump.

This spring the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality [DEQ] announced its intention to deny the dump license, based on site unsuitability. (Boyd

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poor region, selecting an amenable village, Horonobe, near the northern tip of Hokkaido Island. But opposition from the Hokkaido Prefecture governor and Diet and from nearby villages and farmers has blocked plans to construct a waste storage and underground research facility in Horonobe. Meanwhile, attempts to undertake exploratory drilling in other parts of the country have also faced protests.

There are signs that Japan is now looking beyond its borders for a high-level waste disposal site. Since 1984, China has shown interest in importing irradiated fuel or waste for a fee, or in return for assistance with its own fledgling nuclear program. In November 1990, China and Japan agreed to build an underground facility in China's Shanxi province, where research is to be undertaken on high-level waste burial.

Former Soviet Union

In the Soviet Union, anti-nuclear groups have proliferated since the Chernobyl accident, bringing to a halt not only the country's nuclear construction program but also attempts to deal with nuclear wastes.

The Soviet Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry is looking for burial sites near the Chelyabinsk site, home to the country's main reprocessing facility, but is encountering opposition from local people. Efforts to build a major reprocessing plant at Krasnoyarsk in Siberia have been postponed, partly as a result of a petition delivered to local authorities in June 1989, signed by 60,000 people protesting reprocessing and waste disposal plans.

The most notorious failure of governments to control nuclear wastes has occurred at U.S. and

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"Low Level" Radioactive Waste Dumps Target

continued from preceding page

County is near the Missouri River and the border with South Dakota; the proposed site is crossed by waterways and has 42.6 acres of certified wetland.) U.S. Ecology (the proposed dump operator) responded by filing suit against DEQ, the State Department of Health, and Governor Nelson.

Nebraska's 2 nuclear power plants are in the southern part of the state. Electricity from them is used by Lincoln, Omaha, and other states. Most waste destined for the Nebraska landfill would come from other states in the compact. SBCA believes there is no safe place to keep nuclear waste, but the best option is to keep it on site where it is generated.

Central Midwest Compact

After getting Illinois to withdraw from the Midwest Compact, Illinois activists worked with the state Department of Nuclear Safety [DNS] and the legislature to secure the safest possible LLRW facility. As a result of their efforts, Illinois law forbids shallow land burial of radioactive waste and requires a highly engineered structure to contain it. Illinois formed a compact with Kentucky because it agreed to share liability.

However, no appropriate site for a LLRW facility has been found. When one of the two sites under consideration had hydrogeological problems, DNS deleted the word "aquifer" 104 times from a report on the alternate site (Martinsville, about 40 miles west of Terre Haute, Indiana). Public uproar over that resulted in the creation of a special commission to investigate the site. In October 1992 the commission decided Martinsville was unsuitable.

DNS and the nuclear industry are now blaming public input for the failure to site a dump. To eliminate that "problem," the outgoing legislature sneaked through a bill in the last hours of its last session, January 12, 1993, remov-

ing the right of local communities to veto a dump, and setting up a 7-member task force (composed entirely of technocrats with no citizen input) to rewrite the siting criteria and empower a private contractor to select a site.

Although the full spectrum of Illinois' environmental groups petitioned Governor Edgar not to sign that bill, he did. He has since proposed some conciliatory amendments to it, such as adding one person with an environmental background and one person with community government experience to the LLRW Task Force. Activists do not find the amendments substantive enough. They have introduced a bill in the state senate, and will introduce one in the state house, to repeal the legislation.

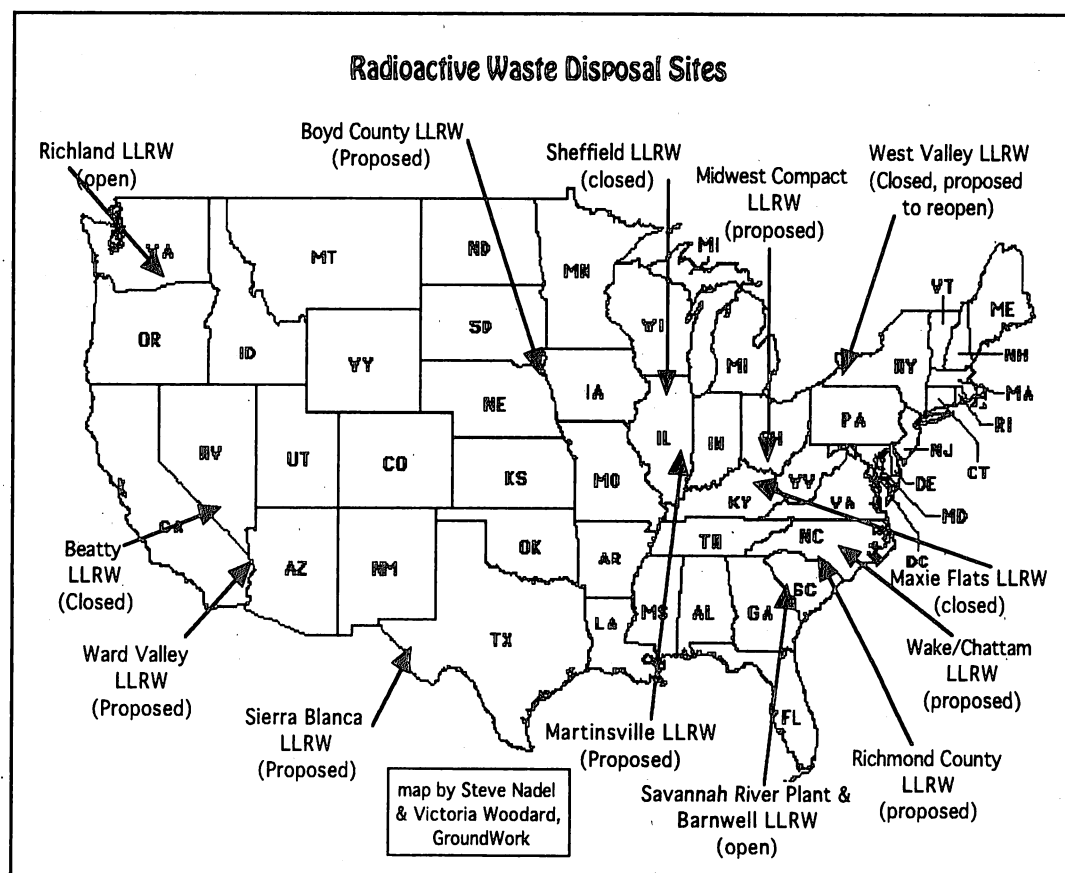
Illinois' activists do not favor siting LLRW facilities at nuclear power plants, for two reasons. 1) Reactors are sited along rivers, lakes and coast lines, because they need huge amounts of cooling water. Illinois' 13 commercial reactors are in flood plains, which disqualifies them for waste disposal under NRC regulations. 2) Activ-

ists believe citizen input would be severely restricted on the private property of reactor sites.

Southwest Compact

The 1992 victories of activists against a LLRW landfill in Ward Valley, California, were frustrated by Governor Pete Wilson. He vetoed bills passed by the state legislature to recycle tritium (radioactive hydrogen which combines with oxygen to form radioactive water) and to mitigate the state's liability for leaks and accidents. The proposed dump operator (again U.S. Ecology) sued the state for agreeing to hold an adjudicatory hearing.

In its last hours, the Bush administration tried to finesse a dump at Ward Valley. Outgoing Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, at Wilson's request, issued an Environmental Assessment on the dump, cutting off the comment period (which would have expired February 8) on a Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement. Activists, including the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe in Arizona, responded by suing the Interior Department—for not making critical habitat provisions for the desert tor-





The tortoisemobile and its beleaguered companion, the desert tortoise, led a car caravan from San Onofre power plant to the proposed site of the Ward Valley LLRW facility in Southern California. The Ward Valley site is stalled partly because of environmental protection of the habitat of the desert tortoise. Photo by Ruth Mullen/Daily Press.

toise. Ward Valley is prime habitat for the tortoise, which is protected under the Endangered Species Act [ESA].

The Federal District Court issued a temporary restraining order, carrying the issue over into the Clinton administration. The new Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt reversed Lujan's action, reviewed the situation, then announced that he was ready to proceed with the dump. Meanwhile, the City of Needles (17 miles from Ward Valley), the State Controller, and activists filed another suit for violations of the National Environmental Protection Act [NEPA].

The Ward Valley site is only 18 miles uphill from the Colorado River—a water source for Native American reservations, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Mexico. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, groundwater under the site filters down to the river. A technical review panel found tritium already present 100 feet below the surface of the site—apparently from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing—proving that the 5 million curies of tritium destined for Ward Valley pose a real threat. The prevailing wind also blows toward the river. The Mojave Desert is known for flash floods, which could expose

buried wastes to the wind.

Despite the likelihood of continued vetoes, the tritium recycling and liability mitigation bills will be reintroduced this year. Activists could not find a legislative sponsor for their new Responsible Care of Radioactive Waste Bill, which would ban radioactive waste incineration and shallow land burial; require all wastes to be stored for decay in above-ground, monitored structures; mandate no new irradiated sites; and limit worker exposures.

In November 1992, southern California activists sponsored a car caravan—led by a tortoisemobile [see photo]—from San Onofre nuclear power plant to Ward Valley. Should all other efforts fail, dump opponents will activate an action alert for a protest encampment at the site.

To learn about the ESA suit and the Responsible Care of Radioactive Waste Bill, contact the BAN Waste Coalition. For information on the NEPA suit or the report of the Ward Valley Technical Review Panel, contact Committee to Bridge the Gap. To put your name on the action alert, contact Don't Waste California. Addresses and phone numbers for these groups are in the box on page 17.

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Soviet military facilities. For Soviet authorities, managing waste once meant dumping it into the nearest body of water. In the case of the Chelyabinsk-40 weapons facility in the southern Ural Mountains, the Techa River became the chosen repository. In 1951 the Soviet government traced the radioactivity to waters 1,500 kilometers from the plant—in the Arctic Ocean. Weapons builders next pumped waste into Lake Karachay, which became so radioactive that even today a person standing at its shore for an hour would die within weeks due to radiation sickness. In 1967, hot summer winds dried the lake and blew radioactive dust 75 kilometers away, contaminating 41,000 people.

By 1953, the Soviet atomic industry had begun storing reprocessing wastes in steel tanks, although discharges into Lake Karachay didn't end until the sixties. In September 1957, one of the tanks overheated and exploded, spewing a radioactive cloud that contaminated thousands of hectares and required the eventual evacuation of 11,000 people.

Eastern Europe

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary have in the past returned irradiated fuel to the Soviet Union for reprocessing, without having to take back the waste. Since the late 1980s, however, the Soviets have insisted on charging for a service that was previously free. Shipments from Central Europe have ceased. Irradiated fuel is now building up in temporary storage facilities that will be full in 2 to 5 years.

South Korea

In S. Korea the 1988 discovery of illegally dumped radioactive wastes in Changan Village near the Kori nuclear

continued to page 17



"Low Level" Radioactive Waste Dumps Target

continued from page 15

Single states

Some states have not joined compacts. Two of them, Texas and New York, are actively trying to site LLRW landfills within their borders. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania are in the beginning stages of siting LLRW dumps—the latter for the Appalachian Compact. NIRS says New Hampshire is hoping to store LLRW at Seabrook nuclear power plant.

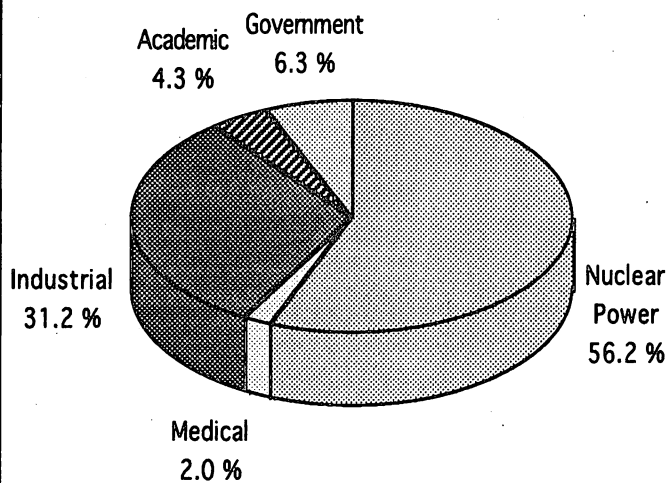
Texas has been trying to site a LLRW landfill since 1983. The current site, in Hudspeth County east of El Paso, is its fourth attempt. There was fierce public opposition to the first 3 sites. The City of El Paso, which sued the state over an earlier site, cut a deal on the current one, which is 30 miles farther east. Hudspeth County was not consulted about the deal. (El Paso is in a different county.)

The Texas legislature has now mandated that the dump be in Hudspeth County, near Sierra Blanca. In May 1993, the Texas legislature voted to form a compact with Vermont and Maine. According to NIRS, Vermont is interested, but activists in Maine oppose it.

Hudspeth County is poor, as are all counties that share the border with Mexico. 2/3 of the population is Mexican American. Spanish is the first language, yet the state didn't bother to produce materials on the dump in Spanish.

The site has hydrological problems; it's also in the watershed of the Rio Grande, which is 18 miles away. To add insult to injury, in July 1992 a private project across the road from the proposed LLRW dump began spreading New York City sludge across the landscape—hundreds of tons arrive 2-3 times a week. When Congress banned ocean dumping, they neglected to solve the problem of heavy metals, pathogens and organic compounds in this waste, which will find its way down the Rio Grande to the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. Low Level Radioactive Waste
Percentage by Volume



Source: DOE 1990

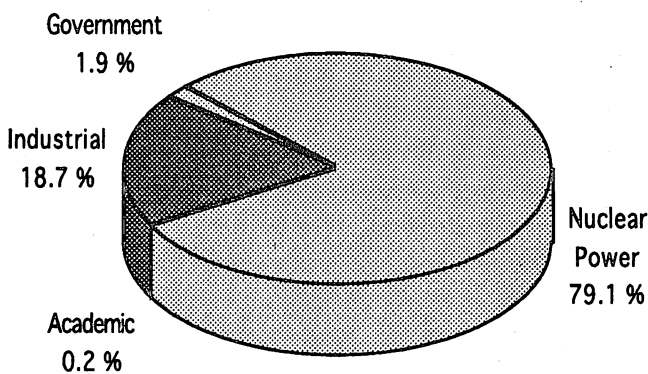
When the landfill leaks, they will argue that the dump operator, or another generator, is at fault and therefore liable. Dump opponents want reactors to keep waste on-site, where the stockholders instead of taxpayers are responsible.

Although none of the 14 proposed sites has been chosen, the nuclear power industry favors a new LLRW dump in West Valley (30 miles southeast of Buffalo), where a LLRW dump and a spent fuel reprocessing plant operated from 1963-75. Water accumulation in the trenches at West Valley has carried plutonium off-site. Clean-up is projected to cost \$4.2 billion over the next 20 years, with the federal government paying 90% and New York 10%. The operator of the plant and dump went bankrupt, and the language in its contract held harmless its parent company, Getty Oil.

After its experience with the LLRW dump, the Town Council in West Valley banned any more radioactive waste dumping. However, when the nuclear industry offered millions of dollars in benefits, the Council rescinded the ban.

A referendum

U.S. Low Level Radioactive Waste
Percentage By Source



Source: DOE 1990

Opponents of the LLRW dump have attended hearings for 10 years, provided reports, and met with the governor. They feel they have tried every public method available to stop the dump, and will probably now have to sue.

New York requires generators, not the state, to keep title to radioactive waste. The nuclear power industry in New York wants to get around that provision by burying their waste in a landfill, where it will mix with waste from other generators.

showed residents oppose another dump, but the Council action has more legal authority.

Activists have proposed a new state bill, which will 1) separate medical and reactor waste, 2) accept responsibility for medical but not reactor waste, 3) store short-lived medical isotopes on-site, 4) send long-lived medical isotopes off-site to an already contaminated area (perhaps to reactors, which store high level waste), and 5) require generators to prove they did

Communities of Color — A Nationwide Update

their best to minimize waste and store it for decay before sending it off-site. NIRS' medical study examines current on-site storage at several medical institutions in New York.

Don't Waste New York [DWNy] advocates closing all nuclear power reactors; no new or reopened radioactive waste facilities; isolating and monitoring existing waste at the point of generation; no deregulation of waste to Below Regulatory Concern [BRC]; and pursuing safe alternatives to nuclear energy and products. Research waste is the most controversial issue that DWNy faces. They oppose the current incineration of radioactively contaminated animals. Alternatively, they suggest freeze-drying, not using animals at all, or using animal cells instead of whole animals.

National LLRW dump proposed

With the LLRW Policy Act, Congress tried to solve the impending radioactive waste bottleneck by forcing each state to dispose of the radioactive waste generated within its borders. An informed public responded by preventing dangerous LLRW landfills from proliferating around the country. Now the NRC is contemplating nationalizing the first 3 new dumps to be sited, according to NRC Commissioner Jim Curtis in a 3/93 meeting with NIRS

Where in the World???

continued from page 15

power plant spawned the country's anti-nuclear movement. Since then, protests—some of them violent—have stopped government workers from developing low-level waste sites on 2 islands. The government now hopes to bury radioactive substances on uninhabited islands by 1995. No firm plans beyond temporary above-ground storage have been revealed for high-level wastes.

Argentina

In Argentina, public pressure forced the government to renounce plans to quickly build a deep

repository for high-level waste from the country's 2 operating reactors.

Taiwan

In Taiwan, government efforts to handle irradiated fuel from the country's 6 nuclear plants have advanced marginally: a research program including geologic studies has been initiated in the past 5 years, but no sites have been chosen. Meanwhile, aboriginal Yami people have protested the government's nuclear dump for low-level waste on Orchid Island. And Taiwanese concern over radioactive waste is contributing to the growing public opposition to building more reactors.

and Public Citizen. Curtis' statement validates the fears of dump opponents at each proposed site around the country.

It is rumored that DuPont is pushing for only one national dump and suggesting that it be in Richland.

[GroundWork will continue to cover LLRW organizing — keep us posted on organizing in your area. Send us newsletters, press releases, photos — see Contents page.]

India

Among the developing countries, India has the most ambitious construction program, with 13 relatively small reactors planned or under construction to add to the 7 already built. A budding anti-nuclear movement confronts an entrenched bureaucracy accustomed to secrecy, but citizen opposition stalled plans to build 2 reactors near Hyderabad. Efforts to site a nuclear waste repository, apparently not yet begun, could be hindered by India's high population density. Meanwhile, the government devotes less than 1% of its substantial nuclear power budget to waste management.

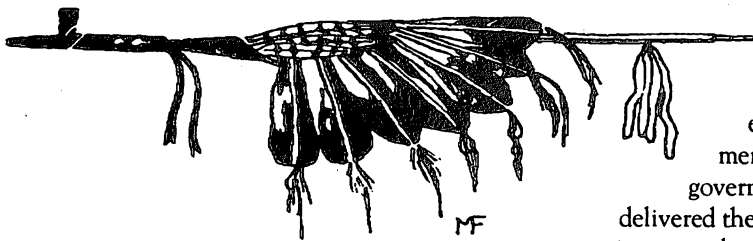
Conclusion

Due to the intense political controversy that now attends any proposal involving nuclear power, whether in Taiwan or Ukraine, progress on the waste issue may only come about when consensus on the future of the industry is achieved. A decision to phase out, or even forego, the use of nuclear power may be a bitter pill; but it would be easier to swallow before a country developed a still larger dependence on nuclear energy.

From Worldwatch Paper #106, by Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036.

Contacts

- Alert Citizens for Environmental Safety [ACES], 519-1/2 Prospect Street, El Paso TX 79902 (915/534-7350)
- Bay Area Nuclear [BAN] Waste Coalition, 2760 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco CA 94118 (415/752-8678)
- Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, PO Box 88, Glendale Springs NC 28629 (919/982-2691)
- Committee to Bridge the Gap, 1637 Butler Avenue, Suite 203, Los Angeles CA 90025 (310/478-0829)
- Don't Waste California, 2940 16th Street, San Francisco CA 94103 (415/861-0592)
- Don't Waste New York, Box 303A, South Plymouth NY 13844 (607/863-3872)
- Northeast Ohio Greens, 530 Euclid Avenue, Suite 200, Cleveland OH 44115 (216/523-1600)
- Nuclear Energy Information Service [NEIS], P.O. Box 1637, Evanston IL 60204 (708/869-7650)
- Nuclear Information and Resource Service [NIRS], 1424 16th Street NW, Suite 601, Washington DC 20036 (202/328-0002)
- Save Boyd County Association [SBCA]: Co-chairmen Dr. C.N. Zidkoe, Spencer NE 68777 (402/589-1148) and Jerry Heermann, Naper NE 68755 (402/832-5686).



by Jennifer Viereck
and Heidi Blackeye

On May 17, Western Shoshone elder and rancher Clifford Dann was sentenced in federal court in Reno, Nevada on the charge of assaulting federal officers on November 19, 1992. Dann was sentenced to nine months in federal prison, with credit for two and a half months he spent awaiting sentencing. He was also given two years probation, and a \$5,000 fine to be paid after release in \$300/month installments.

About 130 Western Shoshone and supporters gathered in Reno for the sentencing hearing. A sunrise ceremony was held outside the jail, and the vigil, which continued until noon, included a pipe ceremony and traditional songs. At 1 p.m., supporters rallied at the University of Nevada, and then walked two miles through downtown Reno to the courthouse. The courthouse was packed to overflowing, and Dann received a standing ovation as he entered. (The judge did not.) After pontificating for over an hour to a captive audience on the beneficence of federal agents and the proper ways to

express disagreement with one's government, the judge delivered the sentence. The prosecution was asking for 41-51 months, so the nine-month sentence was considered a major success for Dann.

Addressing the crowd outside, Carrie Dann spoke emotionally. "My brother, Clifford Dann, is not a political prisoner like some people say. He is a prisoner of war!" She went on to explain, "When the BLM [Bureau of Land Management] came in with helicopters and 40 armed officers, they were invading Western Shoshone lands. We have a right to defend our lands and our livelihood. The U.S. is breaking its own laws, when it breaks the treaty it signed with the Western Shoshone people. They didn't take our lands in 1872. They are taking them *right now!*"

BLM Invades Shoshone Territory

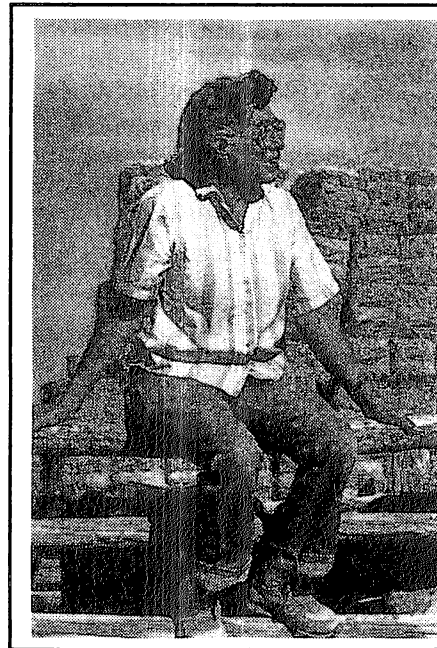
Clifford Dann was injured and arrested while trying to stop the removal of Western Shoshone nationalized livestock in November, 1992 by the BLM near Crescent City, Nevada. From November 19-24, the BLM, backed by U.S. agents and Eureka County sheriffs, launched a military-style raid, to round up nationalized Western Shoshone horses under management of the Danns. BLM officials' stated purpose at that time was to

Western Shoshone

round up "unauthorized horses" found grazing on "public lands."

The BLM alleges that over sixty days, 269 horses were seized and two were killed, when helicopters chased them through barbed wire. The Danns say that at least 40 of these horses were Western Shoshone nationalized livestock. The rest were wild horses supposedly protected from seizure under the United States own laws.

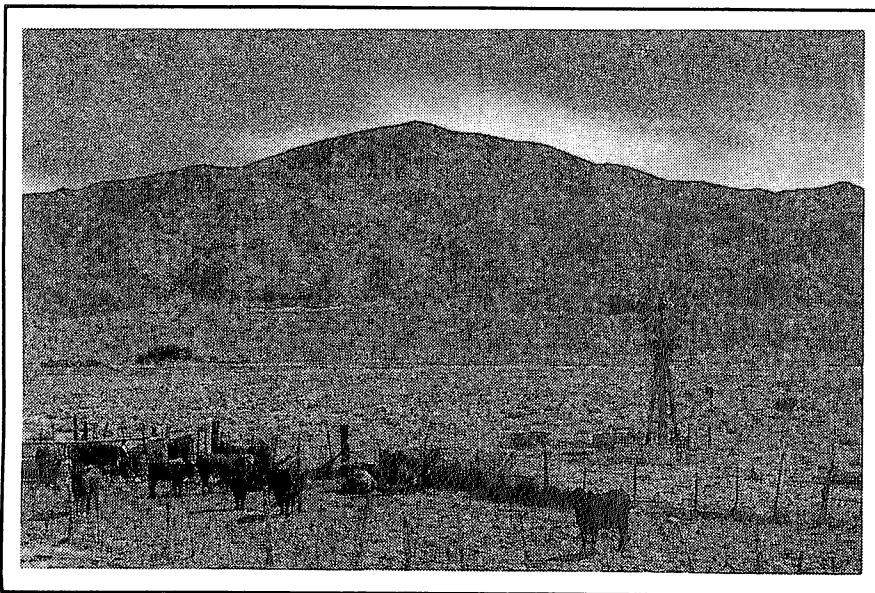
As the first truck prepared to leave, Clifford Dann blocked the exit road with his truck, stood in the bed and doused himself with gasoline. He announced that he would set himself on fire if the BLM did not release the horses. Dann declared that by "Taking away our livelihood and lands, you are taking away our lives."



Mary and Carrie Dann are engaged in an ongoing battle with the U.S. Bureau of Land

U.S. Integrity in Question

At issue is the Western Shoshone Nation's rights to self-government and land use upheld in the Treaty of Ruby Valley, signed by the Western Shoshone and the U.S. government in 1863. This treaty of "Peace and Friendship" gives rights of passage and trade concessions to the U.S., but does not cede any land. However, the U.S. government and corporate interests have had plans for the



The Dann Ranch, near Crescent Valley, Nevada, on Western Shoshone land.

Photo by Jennifer Viereck.

See also pages 26-27 — *Daughters of Abya Yala: Testimonies of Indigenous Women Organizing Throughout the Continent*

Elder Gets 9 Months

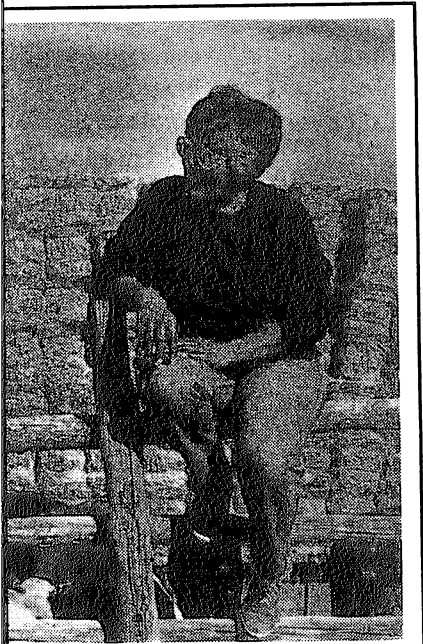
area, ranging from the MX Missile Rail System, in the late 1970s, to gold mine expansion and water diversion to urban areas today. Although the U.S. government's claim to the land does not even meet any of its own criteria for transfer of ownership, it has attempted through U.S. courts and the Indian Claims Commission to wrest control from the Western Shoshone for over sixty years. In the specific case surrounding the Dann

ranch, Western Shoshone ranchers Mary and Carrie Dann have been fighting imposed grazing fees, and now, livestock confiscation, for twenty years.

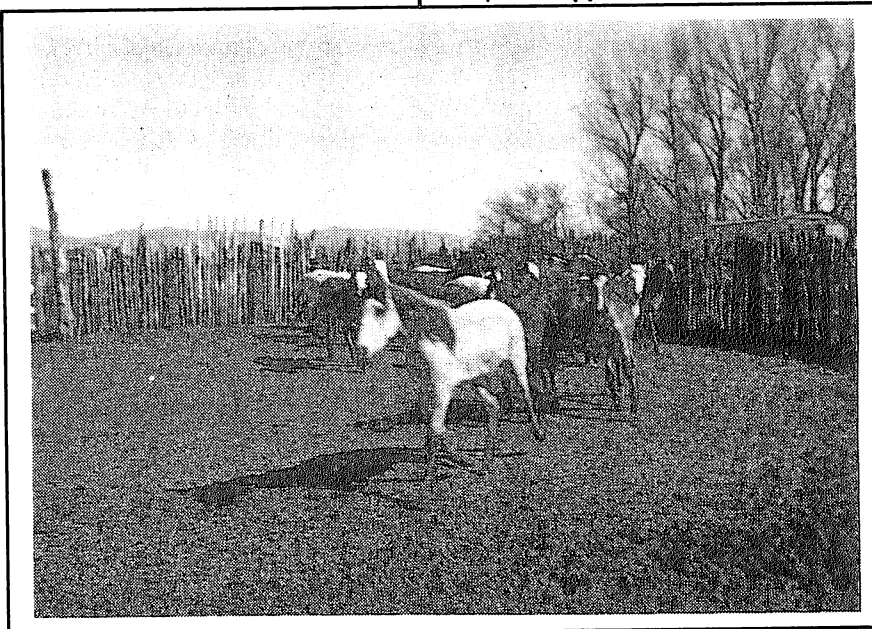
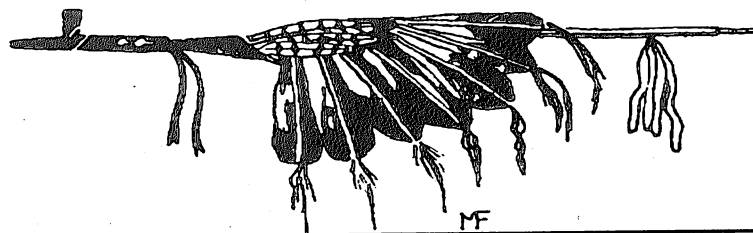
Says Carrie Dann, "My grandmother and her grandmother and her grandmother have lived on these lands.

These are Western Shoshone lands, and always have

continued on page 48



Management for grazing rights at their ranch in Crescent Valley, Nevada. Photo by Kit Miller.



Disputed horses which were kept corralled all winter by the U.S. government were finally let free in March 1993. Photo by Jennifer Viereck.

International Tribunal Planned for Hawai'i

The International People's Tribunal Hawai'i, planned for August 12-21, 1993, will hear testimony from indigenous island residents about land struggles, environmental issues, and cultural activities in the Hawaiian Islands. The tribunal will spend at least one day on each of the five main islands.

1993 is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. invasion and theft of the Hawaiian Nation. The truth of these events has been suppressed and distorted by the American government, schools and media.

The Kanaka Maoli lived in this mid-ocean archipelago since time immemorial. For 2000 years — about a hundred generations — this civilization thrived, and shared the bounties of our nature deities with others in the pursuit of harmony.

The foreigners came and privatized and commercialized our land, labor, resources and culture. The U.S. invasion did more to undermine Hawaiian civilization, with its communal sharing of resources — common worldwide among indigenous peoples — than any other event since colonial plunder of the islands began.

For more information, contact the Pro Hawaiian Sovereignty Working Group, 3333 Ka'ohinani Drive, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96817, 808-595-6691, fax 808-595-3214

Resources & Announcements

On Indian Land is published quarterly by Support for Native Sovereignty (SNS). SNS is a Puget Sound, Washington-area group working to support Native American land struggles, religious rights, political prisoners, and other issues. Subscriptions are \$8 for 4 issues. Articles, artwork, photos, etc are welcome. Write SNS, PO Box 2104, Seattle WA 98111.

Native American political prisoner **Eddie Hatcher** has a new address. Perhaps due to the many letters of concern from around the country, Eddie has been moved from a maximum security prison 200 miles from his family to a medium-security facility 30

miles away. The new address is PO Box 700, Raeford NC 28376.

The Free Eddie Hatcher Campaign has also launched a boycott of North Carolina, targeting tourism and also the Broyhill and Thomasville furniture companies. Broyhill is a major Jesse Helms supporter.

For more information, write the Free Eddie Hatcher Campaign, PO Box 9908, Berkeley CA 94709.

Detailed information on the ongoing land rights struggle of the traditional Navajo at **Big Mountain** is available in the Big Mountain News/Joint Use Agreement Update. Send \$1 to PO Box 146, Philo CA 95466.



Toxic Tampons: Sanitary Protection?

By Joanne Furio

More than ten years after toxic shock syndrome (TSS) awakened women to the dangers of modern sanitary protection methods, women face another silent threat: chlorine-bleached paper products. Used in virtually every mass-merchandised sanitary napkin and tampon on the market, chlorine-bleaching leaves small traces of dioxin — a toxic substance linked to cancer, birth defects, miscarriages, and immune system damage. Yet far more testing has been done on the possible health effects of chlorine-bleached coffee filters than on chlorine-bleached sanitary products.

Disposable pads and tampons contain wood fiber. Although pulp can be bleached without the use of chlorine, chlorine is used repeatedly to make pads "look" sanitary. In reality, sanitary products are not sterilized. The "whiter-than-white" product is a myth promoted by advertisers who equate white with sanitary.

After the TSS outbreak in 1980, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) required manufacturers to lower tampon absorbency from 20 to 15 grams. While this has proved effective (the Centers for Disease Control reports a 93 percent drop in cases of TSS), it does not address the other hazards of tampon use both to women and to the environment.

Fifty to 70 percent of U.S. women use tampons instead of sanitary napkins. Women insert a foreign, unsterilized, highly absorbent object into their bodies, most likely containing dioxin, and consequently change the vaginal environment. One study, published in *Obstetrics & Gynecology* in February 1980, showed tampons may

cause vaginal drying and ulcerations, since they absorb not only menstrual blood but also genital secretions. A study published five months later found that fibrous materials from tampons can be incorporated into vaginal membranes and may be connected to an increase in cervical cancer. With the threat of TSS seemingly obliterated, there have been few new U.S. studies



on TSS or tampon-related illnesses. Manufacturers do not test their products and the FDA only requires that tampon absorbency and TSS symptoms be labeled on the package.

Environmentalists have long been concerned about the effects of chlorine-bleaching. Chlorine-based pollutants kill marine life, paper mills destroy trees, and deadly dioxin enters the food chain when products are flushed into the rivers. Then there are waste problems. In the U.S., 11.3 billion sanitary pads were landfilled or incinerated in 1990. Over-packaging adds to disposal problems and consumes valuable resources. Greenpeace has initiated a "chlorine-free in 1993" campaign for paper companies and suggests that everyone reduce and reuse as much as possible. An alternative is oxygen-bleaching.

Inspired by the book *The Sanitary Protection Scandal*, published by the Women's Environmental Network, women in Great Britain forced manufacturers to switch to the less-toxic oxygen-bleaching method. The women undertook a massive media campaign, enlisted the help of Parliament and Greenpeace, and urged a boycott of

chlorine-bleached paper products, especially napkins, tampons, and baby diapers. After 50,000 letters to manufacturers and to Parliament, within six weeks all major British sanitary napkin companies agreed to switch to oxygen-bleached paper or chemically treated mechanical pulp — both of which are potentially less harmful to women and the environment.

Soon after, Canadian environmentalists mounted an anti-chlorine-bleaching campaign. In their new book, *Whitewash*, Liz Armstrong and Adrienne Scott present an overview of the North American health and environmental issues surrounding sanitary protection. "Women are deeply concerned about the environment," write Armstrong and Scott, "and are prepared to protect it." As the lone consumers of sanitary products, only women have the power to demand change for methods friendlier to their bodies and to the earth.

Earth-Friendly, Safer Alternatives

Women should look for a pad that is not too thick (so washing and drying are safe), that's comfortable, made with quality materials and well tested to ensure no possibility of shifting or rotation.

Reusables

Do-it-yourself pads. Use 100 percent white cotton terry cloth or flannel and fold repeatedly. Safety-pin into a snug-fitting pair of cotton briefs. Machine wash separately between each use.

Many Moon sells two versions of washable cotton pads, available belted or winged, that Velcro or snap together. A set of eight flannelette pads runs about \$28. Write to 14-130 Dallas Road, Dept. GM, Victoria, BC. V8V 1A3, Canada, or call (604) 382-1588.

Moon Pads sells a kit containing belted flannel cotton pads for about \$5. Write P.O. Box 166, Dept. GM, Boulder Creek, CA 95006

New Cycle sells washable 100 percent cotton flannel pads: \$6.95 for two small pads, \$8.95 for two large pads. A sampler containing all sizes is available for \$13.95. Send checks payable to New Cycle to P.O. Box 1775, Sebastopol, CA 95473, or call

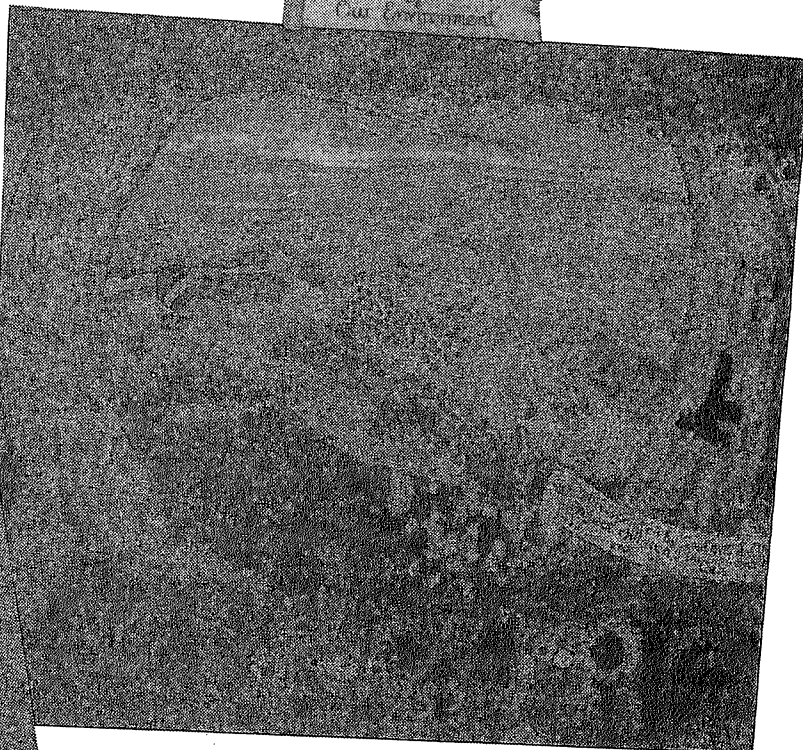
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**Rape and Forced Pregnancy
The Assault on Reproductive
Liberty in the Former
Yugoslavia**

—see page 40—

Kids Paint Ecology Murals in Santa Fe

SouthWest Organizing Project office walls reflect beauty, devastation of environment



In fall 1992, the Youth/Child Development Resources Program (Y/CDR) of the SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP) worked on a mural project with the assistance of well-known Santa Fe, New Mexico muralist Edward Gonzalez. Edward and the SWOP children and youth worked together to design and plan two murals that were painted on outside walls at the SWOP office.

The murals depicted both the beauty and richness of our land as well as the impact of environ-

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GroundWork covers SWOP and the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice in every issue.

**Contact SouthWest Organizing Project, 211-10th St,
Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-247-8832.**

Photos by SWOP/Roibal



Fighting Nuclear Testing

Three Days of Actions Call for End to Nuclear Testing,

by Ken Butigan,
Livermore Conversion Project

On Monday, June 7th, 118 people were arrested at the gates of Livermore National Laboratory — 45 miles east of San Francisco — while calling on the Clinton Administration not to resume nuclear weapons testing and instead to convert Livermore and Los Alamos weapons lab to genuinely peaceful purposes. They also called for redirecting this funding to meet many of the problems facing our society, including the urgent need for housing and jobs.

This demonstration was part of *Conversion Now*, three days of events held in Livermore and the inner city of nearby Oakland, integrating actions for a nuclear-free future and those for economic justice. These activities were organized by the Livermore Conversion Project, Greenpeace, American Peace Test, Dignity Housing West, the Alliance of Atomic Veterans, and scores of national and local peace, justice, environmental, religious, homeless and Native American organizations. Hundreds of people from across the United States and around the world — including leaders of the Western Shoshone nation in Nevada (where Livermore Laboratory illegally tests nuclear bombs), atomic veterans and “downwinders”, the homeless, and a delegation from Japan —

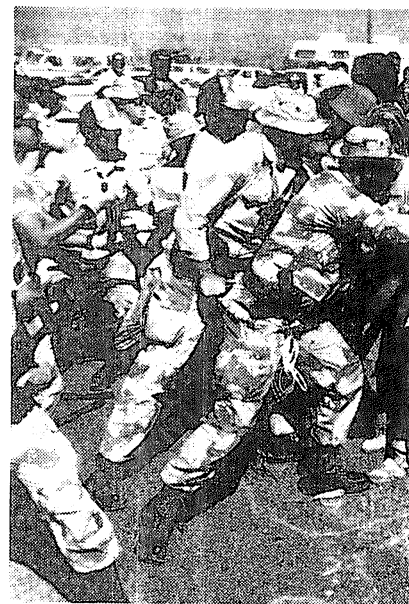
participated in one or more of these events for peace and justice. Simultaneous protests took place in Paris, France, at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons lab in Great Britain, and

other cities across the U.S. and Europe.

These events were timed to send a message to the U.S. government as President Clinton decides either to resume nuclear weapons testing when the Nuclear Weapons Testing Moratorium Act expires on July 1 — or to extend the moratorium and throw full U.S. backing behind the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty process. They were also designed to highlight Livermore and Los Alamos labs' continued research on at least six new nuclear weapons systems, and their nuclear arms budgets, which remain at Cold War levels.

The Events

On Saturday, June 5, Western Shoshone elders joined with U.S. veterans to lead a three mile march from downtown Livermore to Livermore Laboratory. In spite of unseasonable driving rain during the procession, the weather cleared for the rally. Corbin Harney, the Western Shoshone spiritual leader, began the program with a powerful prayer, and music for the event was provided by Linda Hirschorn and by the Funky Nixons. After the opening ceremony, a series of speakers underscored the importance of this witness. Jackie Cabasso of Western States Legal



Guards try to shove demonstrators away
500 Years of Resistance actions at



Faith-based protesters have been an important part of the organizing at Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab. Here, Christian demonstrators take part in a civil disobedience witness action on Good Friday, 1992. Photo by Mev Puleo.

at Livermore Weapons Lab

Conversion of Livermore Lab's Billions to Housing & Jobs



from the main gate during the fall 1992 Nevada Test Site. Photo by Kirsten.



Foundation and Marylia Kelly of Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs), presented an overview of Livermore Lab's work, while Bill Perry, the former public relations director of the lab, shared his insider's view of what goes on there, including almost hourly nuclear-related accidents he had to "explain" to the press. Dorothy King, of Dignity Housing West, graphically spoke to the need for funding for housing and jobs. Claudia Peterson, a mother from Southern Utah, downwind from the Nevada Test Site, shared the unspeakable anguish of losing many friends and family members to cancer, including one of her children. With pain and courage, she called on all who were present to resist continued nuclear testing.

On Sunday, June 6 a multi-cultural gathering was held in an Oakland Church, with many speakers expressing resistance, solidarity and nonviolent love, and with music provided by the People's Homeless Band and Dave Lippman. A march to the nearby Federal Building followed, where concrete demands for housing and jobs were posted. Then, hundreds of people drove to East Oakland where crowbars were used nonviolently to open and take over two houses owned by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Federal law states that the 50,000 or more

houses that HUD repossesses every year must be made available to homeless families. The vast majority of these properties, however, are auctioned to real estate speculators. In the last three years, Dignity Housing West has organized seven houses for

Nevada Test Site Activists Organize Fall Events

Nevada Test Site activists are organizing two series of events for fall 1993, aimed at permanently ending nuclear testing:

- a women's tour of Department of Energy facilities starting in September.
- "A Call to the Desert" by Western Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney, October 8-10.

For information, contact APT, Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 702-386-9834.

homeless families through similar take-overs. This is the first time that the peace and environmental movements joined them in such large numbers, and members of both the peace and environmental justice movements were deeply moved by this collaboration. To underscore the point, a banner was nailed to the front of one of the houses, reading: "Convert Livermore Lab's Billion\$ to Housing and Jobs." Many people settled in for what would turn out to be a 3-day occupation of these houses.

Attention shifted back to Livermore on Monday, June 7, where, again led by the Western Shoshone, hundreds of people

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A helium-lifted banner was floated over Nevada Test Site at the October 1992 actions to commemorate 500 Years of Resistance by Indigenous People. The test site is located on Western Shoshone land. See also page 18. Photo by Steve Nadel.



Hundreds of thousands march for equal rights for gays, lesbians, bisexuals

March on DC:

by Rachel King

On April 25, 1993, the quaint, pristine Washington DC capitol area became the site of the largest gathering in human history to celebrate sexual diversity, and perhaps the largest civil rights demonstration in our nation's history. The National Park Service estimated our numbers at 300,000, but anyone who was there knows there were more than a million of us. On that day, I experienced what it was like to live in a world where all forms of sexuality are accepted equally. It was a transforming experience.

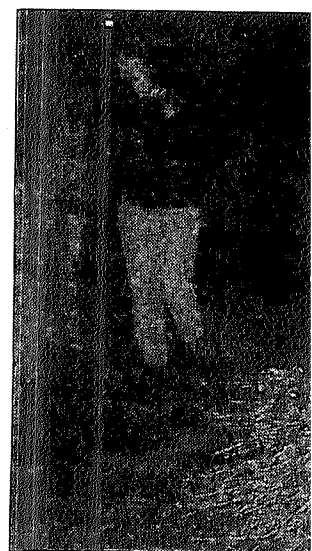
An Unaccustomed Welcome

My partner and I arrived in DC on the Wednesday before the big march. We took the train from New York City after flying 6500 miles from Kodiak, Alaska, an island in western Alaska north of the Aleutian Chain. We had traveled across the continent and entered another world.

There was a festive mood during our train journey. "Oh, are you coming to town for the march," we heard from train employees and passengers when they heard we were from Alaska. Their expressions were warm and welcoming. We were not accustomed to being welcomed as a couple. During the past six months living in rural Alaska we had felt isolated and, at times, experienced hostility from our small-town neighbors.

The next five days were a whirlwind of activity: parties, demonstrations, vigils, and civil disobedience actions, all inspiring and important. But the most empowering part of the experience was the intense feel-

Photos by Alina Ever, Hugh Esco, & Rachel King



A ritual for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender holocaust victims was held at a park near the national

and people with AIDS...

An Alaskan Activist's Experience

ing of camaraderie and belonging which came from being with more than a million "family" members.

Our first day in DC, we went to DuPont Circle, the gay area of DC. We ate lunch at the renowned Kramer Bookstore Cafe sitting in a section with four tables placed closely together. A lesbian couple from Boston sat to our left processing about their day's itinerary. A gay man sat to our right reading a novel and next to him sat a quartet of rowdy dykes from New York talking loudly about whom they had seen already and who was currently sleeping with whom. My partner and I sat silently, taking in the ambiance.

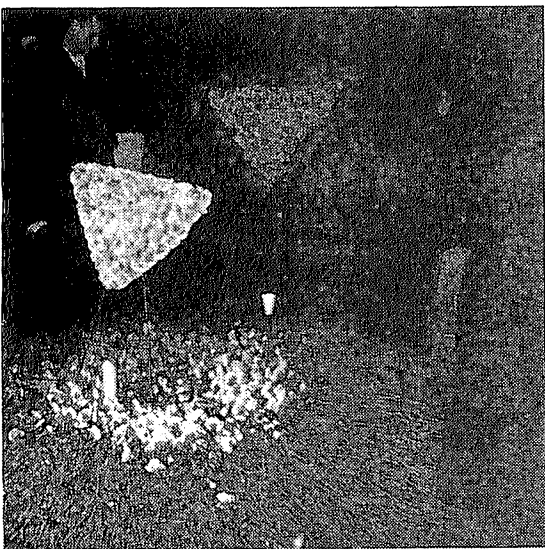
After lunch we went to the gay book store, Lambda Rising, which was already packed beyond fire safety capacity. Although looking at books was not really possible, we huddled in the women's book section feeling part of humanity, when a bookstore employee announced over the loudspeaker, "Phone call for Jesse Helms." The crowd went wild, laughing and jeering.

As we left the store, we were approached by a volunteer from the Gay Rights Task Force asking us to sign up to send telegrams to representatives. When he found out where we were from, he shrieked as only gay men can, "Oh, my first lesbian couple from Alaska, how nice!"

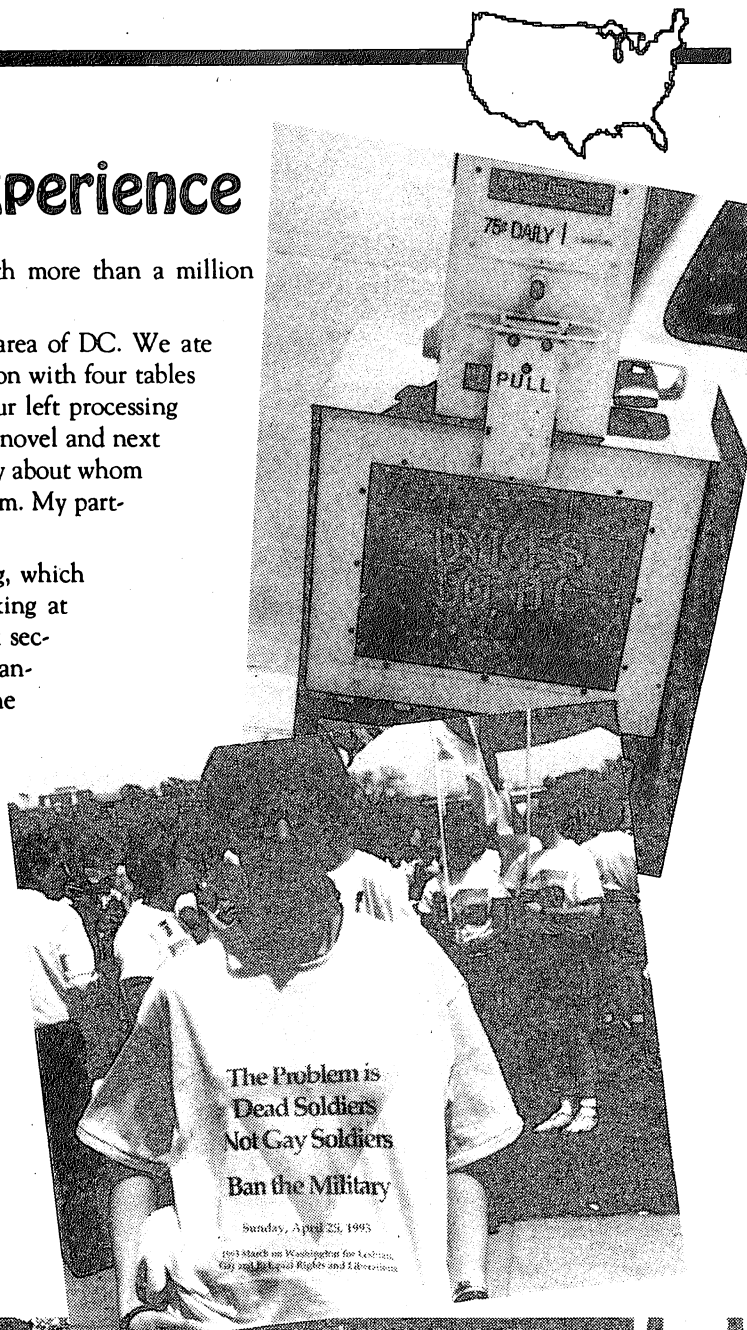
In the Majority

It was exciting! The energy in DC for those five days was palpable. The Washington Metro, usually known for its quiet riders, became a meeting place for people from all across the country. At times there were so many gay people riding the train that a spontaneous

continued on page 50



Holocaust Museum. Participants placed pink flowers in a triangle, symbolizing the transformation of the Nazi symbol of shame to a badge of pride, and bearing witness to both the living and the dead.





A new publication of the SAIIC Women's Committee:



DAUGHTERS C

ABYALA Y

Testimonies of Indian Women Organizing

(Abya Yala means continent of life in the language of the Kuna people of Panama and Colombia)

Features:

- Statements from grass-roots Indian women leaders from South and Meso America.
- Resolutions from Indigenous women's meetings.
- Information on Indian women's projects in Latin America.
- Directory of Indian women's organizations and key contacts.
- Poems by Indian women.
- Forty-eight pages with beautiful black and white photographs.



Cakchiquel Maya widows, Sololá Guatemala

— SAIIC —

The South and Meso American Indian Information Center (SAIIC) strives to promote and develop the organization of Indian people at the local, national and international levels and to support their full participation in decision making processes that affect their lives and the well-being of their children.

Among SAIIC's activities are: The Information & Networking program; The Visitor's Program, which brings leaders from South and Meso American Indian communities to meet with Native people of the U.S. and Canada as well as peace, environmental and human rights groups; The Women's Project, whose work includes publishing *Daughters of Abya Yala*; Defense of Human Rights & the Environment; and Technical Assistance to Indian communities.

For more information, contact SAIIC, P.O. Box 28703, Oakland, California, 94604, USA, (510) 834-4263.



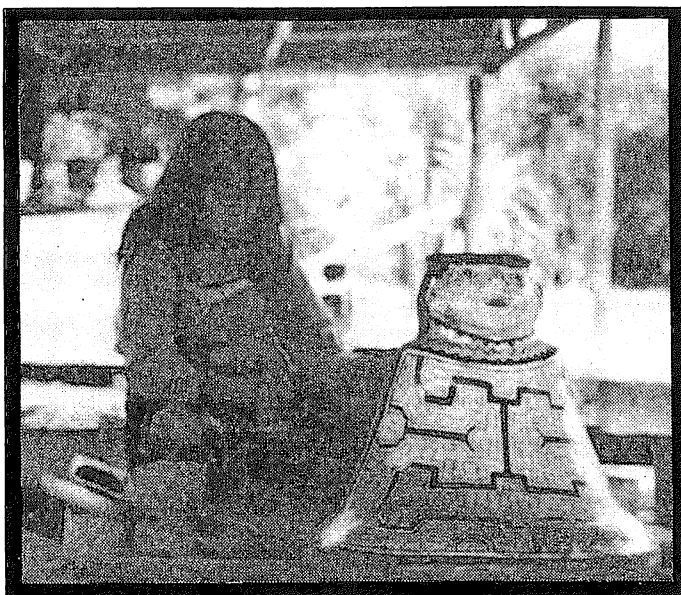
Surui basketmaker, Brazil

GroundWork Art & Resistance pages designed by George Fra

Photos, left to right: Aguirre/Switckers/Amazonia; Dick Bancroft; ASA; SAIIC

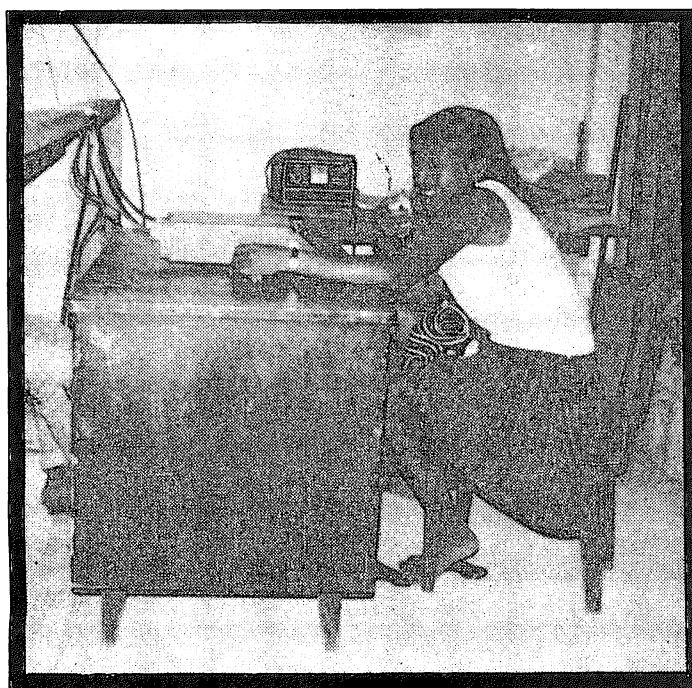


throughout the Continent



Shipibo potter, Peru

For the respect of self-determination for Indigenous peoples,
For the dignity of Indigenous women,
For the solidarity of Indigenous women all over the world.
— Juana Vasquez Vasquez, Union of Jalalteca Women, Oaxaca, Mexico



Kuna woman speaking on community radio



Maphuche Machi (spiritual leader) playing the sacred cultrum

“As women, we are particularly identified with the land. We recognize that land is life. For this reason, we must respect ourselves as women. This Mother Earth is the only one that we have, so we have to respect her, take care of her, and love her... We take seriously our responsibility to defend her.”

—Women's Commission, Quito Conference

Ordering Information:

Daughters of Abya Yala can be ordered from SAIIC for \$8 plus postage and handling (North America add \$1.50 per order; International add \$3 per book).

Send check or money order in US Dollars only to:
SAIIC, P.O.
Box 28703,
Oakland,
California,
94604, USA.

Please contact SAIIC for information about quantity orders: (510) 834-4263, Fax: (510) 834-4264.





Greens Join in Organizing Alternative Earth Days

African-American Earth Day Offers Hope to a Milwaukee Community

by Rick Whaley

Over 200 people, parents and kids, from the 18th & Locust Street area of Milwaukee attended the Earth Day program and parade sponsored by the Open Door Community Center and the Milwaukee Greens. Open Door is a volunteer-initiated program for youth set up by the African-American community that runs weeknight and weekend programs for neighborhood kids at Hephatha Lutheran Church. On

most Saturdays during the year, with the help of the Milwaukee area Greens, the center runs a full day program of karate classes, woodworking, art projects, chess, and other youth development initiatives.

On this particular Saturday, April 24, Open Door and the Greens brought the country to the city and offered some Earth Day sunshine to a physically-impovertished neighborhood. The gym floor at Hephatha's community building was covered with hay and over in one corner, behind a makeshift corral of hay stacks, Harley the pig, a possum, a kestrel and a friendly goat joined the educational festivities. The community kids

shared the information they knew about wild birds and asked questions. The kids frolicked in and out of old country games such as horseshoes and sack races, as well as trying newfangled cooperative games and a nature hike around the block. Parents stopped by information tables in the basement to learn about lead poisoning, drug-use prevention, and alternatives to household toxins.

At 4pm on this sunny, breezy Earth Day,
continued on page 48



above: Southern Florida Greens joined neighborhood activists in planting an Earth Day tree — see story below. Photo by Suzanne Sheber.

right: neighborhood kids lead the Earth Day parade through the 18th & Locust Street area of Milwaukee. Photo by Waring & Gretchen Fincke.

Southern Florida Greens Co-Host Multicultural Earth Day Event

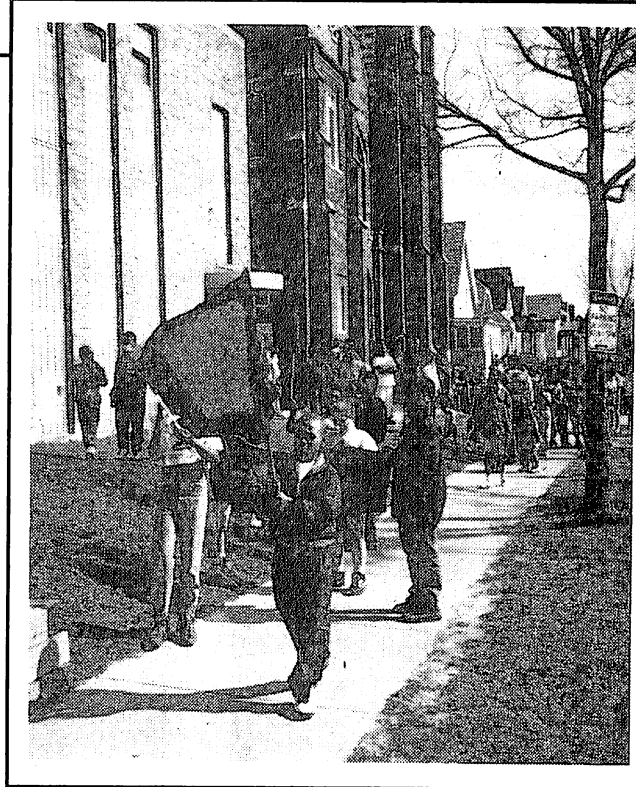
Southern Florida Greens joined with the neighborhood group Citizens on Task to honor the Earth's natural resources and diverse people. More than 250 people gathered for the area's first annual Earth Day celebration.

There were vegetables from nearby farms, organic products from the Amazon rainforest, and information tables from a variety of cultural and activist groups.

William Lockhart of Citizens on Task displayed a tree that he spent three years growing which bears lemons, oranges, limes, tangerines and grapefruit. But he hopes it won't take that long for the community to live together peaceably like the fruit on his tree. "It's very important to get the different races and the neighborhood together," he said.

Suzanne Sheber of the Southern Florida Greens agreed. "It's especially exciting to have a multicultural gathering of people. Too often, we are separated in our own little communities."

edited by GroundWork from a story by D. Aileen Dodd





Greens Head to Syracuse for Annual Gathering

The 1993 National Green Gathering will be held August 13-18 in Syracuse, New York. Syracuse is a declining rust-belt city where Greens are organizing a neighborhood-based movement for a Green city and region based on grassroots democracy and an ecological mode of economic redevelopment.

The Greens in Syracuse are a multicultural movement, and are working with community organizations to reclaim land and housing. They are fighting trash incinerators, coal "co-generators," and nuclear power plants and proposing solar-based renewable energy through democratic public power. They are running Greens for offices in 1993.

Green Cities and Green Justice

August 14-15, the Greens focus on a Syracuse neighborhood park, taking part in projects with community groups, sponsoring workshops and panels, and organizing picnics.

August 16-18 is the Green Congress, to be held at Earthwise Education Center Farm. Delegates of Green locals will decide on national Green policies. Delegates may also work on an experimental organic farm.

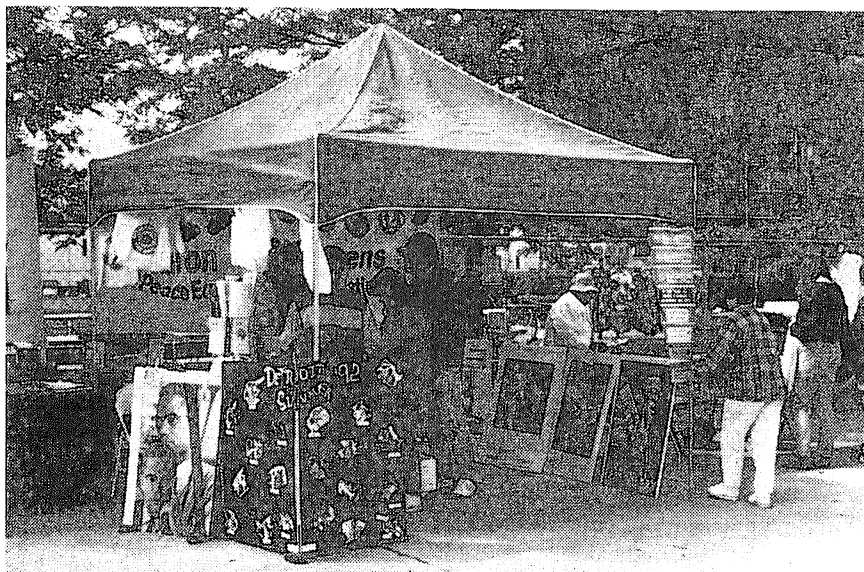
All interested people are welcome at the Gathering. Green locals need to renew national memberships and Bulletin subscriptions in order to be represented at the Congress.

For information, cost, logistical information, etc, contact the Green Gathering, PO Box 562, Syracuse NY 13205.

Mid-Missouri Greens

The Mid-Missouri Greens chapter of the Missouri Green Party has been active since February 1993. During the past few months, the group has sponsored a city council candidate forum, co-sponsored a NAFTA conference, participated in Earth Day, held a fundraising garage sale, taken part in an African American heritage day, and opposed a sales tax increase. On April 1, 1993, John Rensenbrink of Brunswick, Maine, a founder of the U.S. Green movement, spoke in Columbia at a meeting hosted by the Mid-Missouri Greens.

by Jeff Taylor



At the Greens table, Detroit Summer, 1992.

Green Cities projects have taken root in a number of communities across the country, and are an integral part of the Greens' vision. For more information, contact the Greens Clearinghouse, 1-800-257-7336. Photo by Brian Chambers.

See also page 31 for more on Detroit Summer 1993.

Synthesis/Regeneration

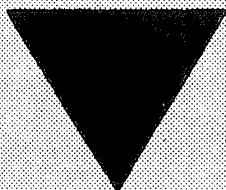
A Magazine of Green Social Thought

- No. 4 — Green Electoral Politics (Fall, 1992) — The broadest spectrum of U.S. Green views on running for office in print.
- No. 5 — Education for Democratic Empowerment (Winter, 1993) — Should schools serve as sites for social reproduction or as sites for social transformation?
- No. 6 — "Free" Trade vs. Visions of a Green Society (Spring, 1993) — If not globalization under the thumb of multinational corporations, what kind of trade do we want?

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Greens Are Lavender Too!



Rachel King of the Alaska
Greens reports on the Gay/
Lesbian/Bisexual/AIDS March
on Washington

— See page 24 —



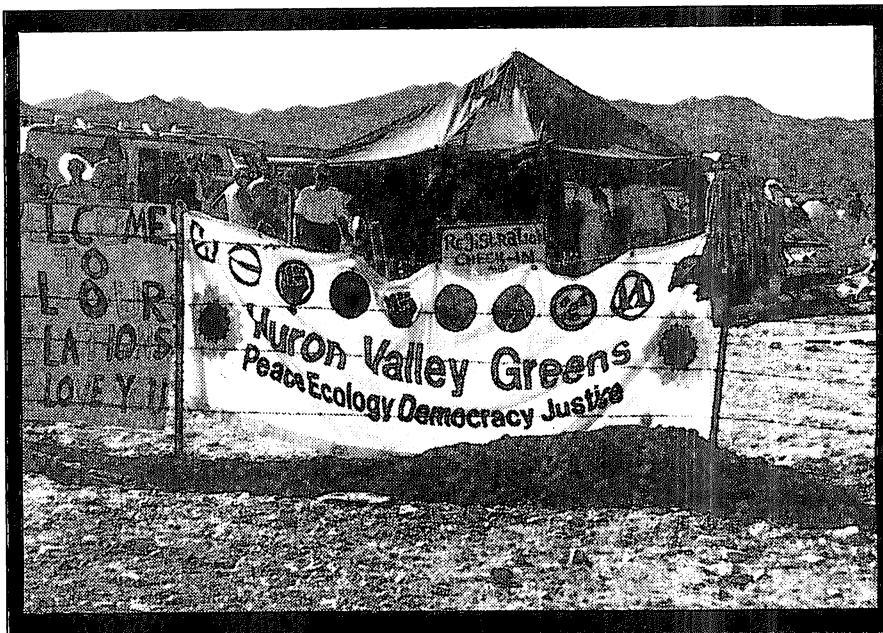
Are You or Your Group Interested in Joining The Greens?

The Greens are a network of local organizing groups across the country. If your group is interested in affiliating, contact the Clearinghouse. Active members of affiliated groups receive *GroundWork* with their memberships, as well as *Green Politics* and *Regeneration*, the national publications of The Greens.

How You Can Join The Greens

If you would like more information about Green activity in your area, contact the Greens Clearinghouse, 1-800-257-7336.

The Greens Clearinghouse performs a vital function for Green activity and the exchange of Green information. It is always hampered by insufficient funds. You can help with their work by joining or donating to The Greens.



The Huron Valley Greens travelled across the country to take part in the October 1992 "Healing Global Wounds" events and direct action at Nevada Test Site. The events commemorated 500 Years of Resistance by Indigenous People, and in particular focused on land rights of the Western Shoshone, on whose land the test site is located. For more information, see page 23, or call American Peace Test, 702-386-9834. Photo by Steve Nadel.

Get involved with The Greens!

___ \$25 Supporting
Membership

___ \$15 Active
Membership

___ \$10 Student/Low
Income (under
\$10,000/yr)

___ I want my additional donation of
\$ ___ to support:

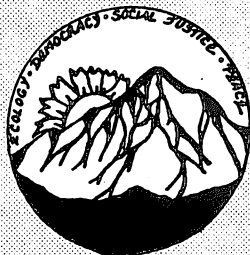
___ Women's Leadership Fund

___ Green Justice Fund

___ Green Youth Network

___ Equipment Drive

___ Green Action Plan



Send to The Greens Clearinghouse, PO Box 30208,
Kansas City MO 64112.

Ohio Greens take lead in opposing nuclear dumping — see pages 12-13



GREEN POLITICS

Green Politics is a publication of the national Greens. Each quarterly issue carries news and reports on dozens of Green locals, coverage of Green candidates and electoral organizing nationwide, and articles on such topics as Green Economics, Green Justice, Movement Analysis, and more.

Green Politics is available with a membership in the Greens. Bulk copies are available for as little as 50¢ per copy.



Contact the Greens Clearinghouse, PO Box
30208, Kansas City MO 64112-3208, or call
1-800-257-7336

Youth from around country come to Detroit for second year



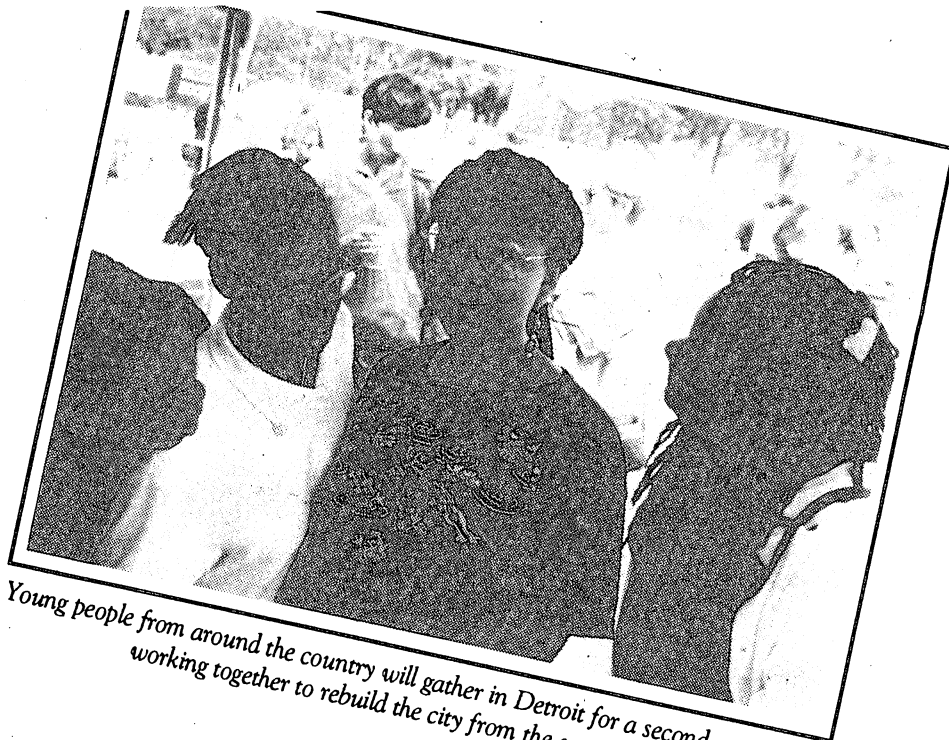
Detroit Summer 1993 Rebuilds City

Detroit Summer 1993 is a multicultural, intergenerational youth program/movement to rebuild, redefine and respirit Detroit from the ground up.

The 1993 events are sponsored by an alliance of Detroit community groups, and will take place from June 27 to July 17. Detroit youth ages 14-25, and out-of-town youth 18-25, are invited to take part. Volunteers of all ages are needed to recruit for and support Detroit Summer.

This summer's project will build on the success of the 1992 program, which involved over a hundred young people aged about 15-25, about a third of whom were from other parts of the country [see *GroundWork* fall 1992].

In 1992, participants toured the city to experience Detroit's rich ethnic diversity; explored Detroit's water, food, transport and waste systems as part of a larger ecosystem; engaged in "Intergenerational Dialogues" with veterans of the labor, civil rights, and Black Power movements; marched against violence and crack houses; painted a mural; rehabbed houses, turned vacant lots into parks and



Young people from around the country will gather in Detroit for a second summer, working together to rebuild the city from the grassroots.

baseball diamonds, and visioned the ideal community in an all-day workshop.

Working, playing, and talking together, participants gained a sense of the

pioneering role today's young people can and must play in redefining and rebuilding the cities of the 21st century as centers of compassion, cooperation, participation, and enterprise — in harmony with the Earth.

For more information, contact the Detroit Summer office, 4605 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202, 313-832-2904.

Here's what some of last year's participants had to say about Detroit Summer:

"It makes you feel that you are an important part of changing and molding our future generations." — Tracey Hollins, 15, Detroit

"Forget about the politicians. Come up from underneath them, push up from the roots. It was so great to be working on the park with the kids." — Andrea DeFrancesco, 19, Penobscot, Maine

"By participating in Detroit Summer, I'm telling the world I care about my city." — Mary Trombley, 16, Detroit

photos by Brian Chambers



Community groups such as the Greens helped support Detroit Summer 1992. Here, Kwazi Nkrumah of the Greens talks with young people at the community fair.

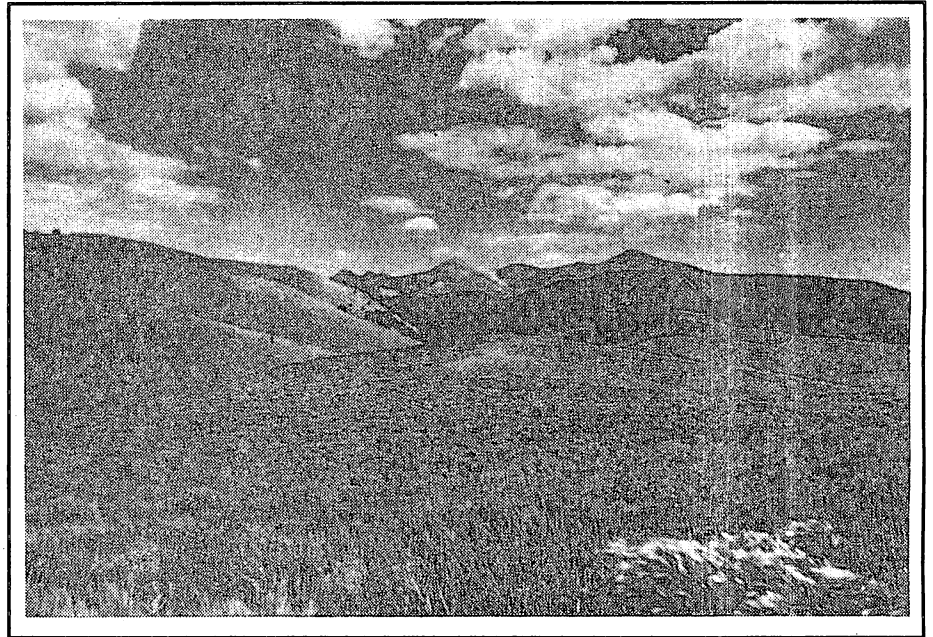


Alliance for Wild Rockies Promotes

by Jenn DaParma

Back in 1897 the U.S. government set aside close to 150,000 acres of land in central Idaho to create the Bitter Root Forest Preserve, an area whose terrain still looked as it had when Lewis and Clark first entered the region. Today this land is known as the Nez Perce National Forest and remains a diverse habitat of several distinct environments, from large swaths of old growth containing giant Ponderosa Pine, Ground Fir and White Spruce to bogs, marshes and meadows. Each is a unique ecosystem complete with its own life forms, from microscopic organisms to plants, insects and animals. Together they are home to populations of endangered grey wolves, threatened chinook salmon, cougar, pileated woodpeckers, boreal owls, several sensitive fish and a host of sensitive plants.

The National Forest is situated among a string of wilderness areas scattered through Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This Northern Rocky Mountain region is often called "the last, best place" in the country, honoring its wild rivers and some of the only undisturbed habitat outside Alaska for rare species that include woodland caribou,



Activists seek to protect a wide variety of habitat in the Northern Rockies. Photo by AWR.

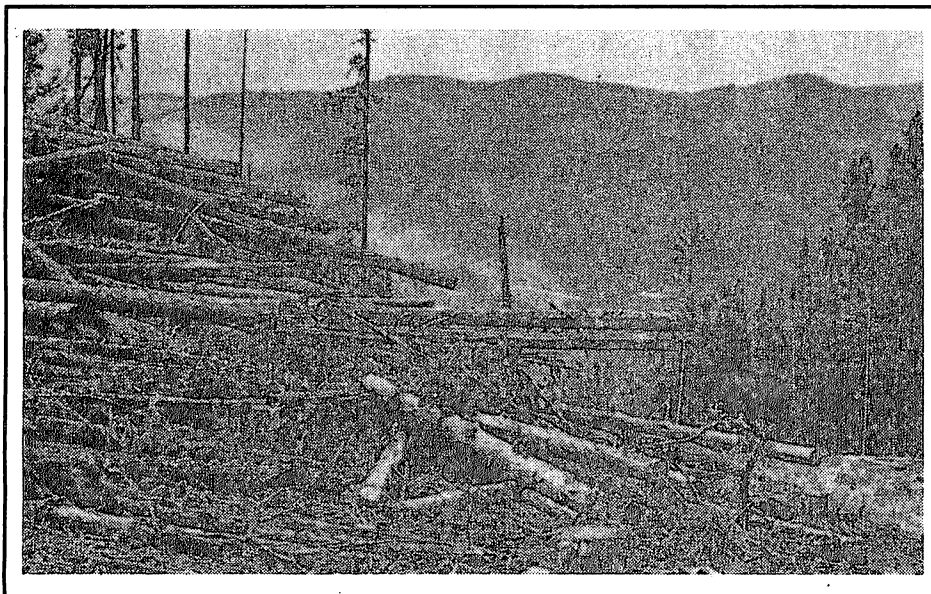
grizzly bear, great grey owl and westslope cutthroat trout. Over 17 million acres of roadless public lands remain in the region, a series of wilderness areas connected by natural corridors that allow a great variety of wildlife to flourish, which in turn draws large numbers of tourists, sports enthusiasts and outdoor adventur-

ers to its mountain peaks and meadows.

Public Land for Sale

Vast stretches of this region have not been formally designated as wilderness by the federal government, and are therefore technically available for logging and development. In the past, Congress has passed individual state bills to mitigate the conservation versus development struggle. These bills protect some selected, separate areas but do not adequately cover species who migrate over state boundaries. These bills also allow the Forest Service to sell off large amounts of timber to private industry. The Nez Perce National Forest has recently been opened up for logging, releasing 54,000 acres of public land for trucks and bulldozers to build 145 miles of roads and chop 81 million board feet of timber.

Brought together by a love for the beauty of the area as well as a fear of the economic consequences of clear-cut logging practices, a number of diverse citizen groups have joined together to protect the country's greatest heritage. Because the land is home to several endangered and threatened mammals and fish, activists question the legitimacy of a timber sale that will functionally destroy 76,000 roadless acres, sever a roadless wilderness corri-



The future of the Nez Perce National Forest? Photo by Steve Kelly.

Bioregionalism to Preserve Idaho Forest



dor and dangerously fragment the five million acre greater salmon ecosystem. Such damage would be a violation of the Endangered Species Act while also affecting the region's economy, threatening a host of animals and plants as well as the revenue brought in by the growing number of visitors each year. Several groups in the region are preparing to file suite to stop the Cove/Mallard sale by court order, including the Idaho Sportsman's Coalition, Oregon Natural Resources Council, Ecology Center of Missoula, MT, and a local Idaho Audubon Chapter.

The Forest Service maintains that all the necessary steps were taken while conducting the sale, including public meetings and environmental analysis that involved various citizen groups. They state that only an estimated 9-11% of the sale area will be cut, while most will remain untouched; of the 54,000 acres in the Cove/Mallard sale, 3,800 acres will be developed. It is a long term, extensive sale that will take 15-20 years to complete. Roads are currently being built or reconstructed and a timber harvest is planned for this summer. The ongoing process is open to inclusion of new evidence regarding species habitat destruction and other environmental damage, but the Forest Service will continue with the plan unless the court tells them to stop.

The Cove/Mallard sale is one example of the deteriorating condition of public lands throughout the country. Current legislation regards these lands as appropriate for "multiple use", allowing and encouraging the inclusion of timber, cattle and

accessible but then often sells it cheap. Over the past 14 years, the U.S. has subsidized logging companies to the tune of \$8.5 billion.". The forests are opened up to provide goods and services for everyone, under the theory that land can be both



Bighorn Sheep are indigenous to the Northern Rockies. Photo by Morris Meyerowitz.

mining interests. The revenues brought in for the natural riches are minimal; according to the March 8, 1993 issue of TIME, "the government is currently losing money on logging operations in more than half of its 155 national forests. The U.S. spends money to build roads and make the timber

exploited and protected at the same time. This theory does not seem to include a long-term goal of forest preservation; in the lower 48 states, only 5% of the original virgin forests remain intact, most of them in the Northern Rockies.

Global Support

Citizen groups around the world are coming together to preserve Cove/Mallard and the Northern Rockies. Concerned residents of the region have created an umbrella organization called the Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR), based in Missoula, MT. The group is comprised of a large number of diverse groups: regional members include the Idaho Sportsman's Coalition, Medicine Wheel Alliance (MT), Ancient Forest Bus Brigade (ID), Rocky Mountain Film Institute (MT) and the Missoula Humane Society; nationally, the Continental Divide Trail Society (MD) is on the long member list along with the Biodiversity Legal Foundation (CO), Forest Reform Network (TX) and

continued on pg 49



Earth First! Summer in Arizona and Idaho/Montana

Join Earth First! activists to protest clear-cutting and road building in the Cove/Mallard area of the Northern Rockies. Logging has already begun for the development of roads that will lead trucks and bulldozers to the heart of this sensitive wilderness. Camps are being set up for summer long actions and activities that include non-violence trainings, tree sittings, backwoods civil disobedience, and publicity and outreach. Come learn more about Earth First! and the Cove/Mallard sale at the annual Earth First! Rendezvous, which will be held in Safford, Arizona this year from June 27-July 4. Then carpool up to the Cove/Mallard site for a summer of educating yourself and others about the beauty of the Rockies and the destructive habits of the Forest Service.

Gather your friends together to save the largest un-roaded piece of land remaining in the lower 48 states. For more information, contact your local EF!, the Wild Rockies EF! in Montana at (406) 721-4255, or Bill Haskins and Erik Ryberg at the Missoula Ecology Center at (406) 728-5733.

Reclaiming Housing in Portland

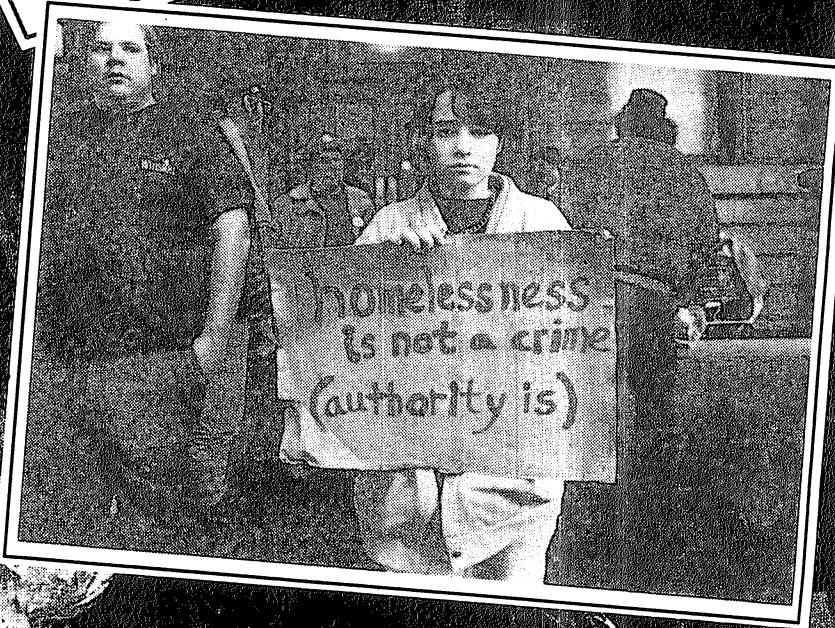
By Allen Ferguson
photos by Bette Lee

On any given night in Portland, Oregon there are 800-1300 homeless people (youth and adults) that the shelters cannot accommodate. Yet Portland has destroyed some 1337 low income rooms and replaced them with a little over 300 rooms as their answer to the housing problems in the area.

Food Not Bombs! began in Portland in 1990. For over two years individuals working in and working in conjunction with FNB! have tried to look for more than just band-aid solutions offered by the city, most shelters, and other social church organizations. We have tried to create real, viable alternatives to the many degradations of street life.

After serving free food and clothing for some time, we realized that we had to do more. Making the police and citizens

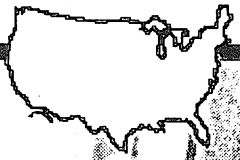
Food Not Bombs activists spur
occupations, restoration



accountable for their behavior toward homeless people is one task. Another is researching, then trying to create a real alternative to the dehumanizing treatment of the shelters. One thing born out of this was the homeless encampment at City Hall in the winter of 1992. Takeovers and sweat equity came to mind after the encampment ended. Many hours were spent at the tax assessors office researching city and federally-owned houses. We began talking to many of the people who helped

continued on page 48

background photo by Bette Lee
design by George Franklin



Homeless Veterans Take Action in Washington D.C.

by Keith Mason and Alex Gupman
photos by Rick Reinhard

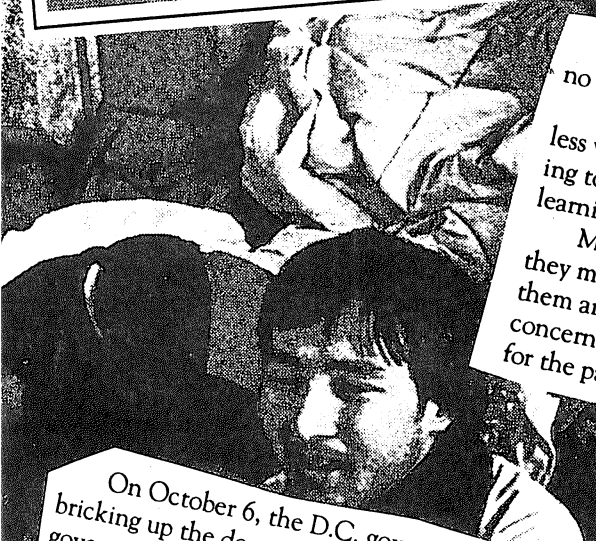
There are over 15,000 homeless people in Washington D.C., many of whom sleep under the stars, wake up to the deadly cold, and seldom know what tomorrow will bring. If they are lucky they have blankets to wrap around their bodies.

Because of their circumstances, the homeless are often portrayed as helpless. Concern for the homeless is thus deflected from political action — demanding jobs and affordable housing — into charity, which may bring a needed blanket or two, but does nothing to disturb the status quo that leaves so many out in the cold.

Homeless Veterans Organize

But the homeless are not powerless, and they continually demonstrate that they have no intention of accepting the status quo. Last fall, we were enlightened during a week-long ordeal in which a group of homeless veterans fought to keep open a vacant building they had occupied and were attempting to renovate. We spent two days at the Ellen Wilson Dwellings in Southeast D.C. learning what it means to live in a society that treats you as if you are less than human.

Many of the people there had been homeless for years. There are no jobs for them; they must fight discrimination and classism. Jobs that once might have been open to them are now closed because they are homeless. But that week the only thing that concerned them was fighting to stay in the buildings they had called home for the past few months.



On October 6, the D.C. government began bricking up the doorways of their buildings. The government vowed that by the end of the week all the vacant buildings that these men had taken over would be completely bricked up. The homeless veterans reacted by deciding they would not leave, no matter what.

They set up barriers and called the media. By the end of the night three major news teams were there along with numerous others. The veterans asked to meet with city officials, but the city said no and the standoff continued. Workers bricking up the buildings kept going, slowly making their way to the heart of the community.

Police Move In

Finally, the only building that remained open

continued on page 49





by Uncle St. Nunzio

The tax resistance spirit of Henry David Thoreau is alive and well—especially in the rural western Massachusetts town of Colrain, where a historic tax resistance struggle has been evolving for several years. Last October I went there as a representative of the Northern California War Tax Resistance to get a firsthand perspective.

In March, 1989, the IRS delivered a notice of seizure for the home of Randy Kehler and Betsy Corner, claiming the couple owed \$23,478.31 in back taxes, interest, and penalties accumulating since 1977. They pay the full amount of taxes owed every year—but not to the IRS.

Tax Resistance Resources

Conscience is published quarterly by the Conscience and Military Tax Campaign, which has provided counselling and support for war tax resisters since 1979. Subscriptions \$10. Contact CMTCC, 4534-1/2 University Way NE, Seattle WA 98105, 206-547-0952.

Network News is published by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. Write PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951.

Taxing Times is the newsletter of Northern California War Tax Resistance. For a free copy send a first-class stamp to: NCWTR, PO Box 2422, Berkeley, CA 94702, or call (510) 843-9877. Donations not necessary, but always welcomed.

The Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center publishes *The Dove*. Write to 295 Forest Avenue #314, Portland, ME 04101-2018. Articles and artwork welcomed.

Life & Times is the newsletter of New England WTR. Write PO Box 174, MIT Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139.



The Mobile Unit, winter quarters for vigilers, outside the Kehler-Corner house

Instead, they give half to local food banks, homeless shelters, and other community services that get shortchanged by excessive military spending. They give the other half to victims of U.S. military involvement in foreign countries.

At an auction held that July, over 500 supporters showed up to offer non-monetary bids of food, professional labor, and community service. Not a single cash bid was made, so the government had to buy the old farmhouse from itself.

On November 18, 1991, a U.S. Marshall delivered an eviction order to the Kehler-Corner home. Early December 3rd, U.S. Marshalls came to the house, arrested Kehler, posted "No Trespassing" signs, and installed locks on the house. The next day Randy and Betsy's supporters broke into the house and reoccupied it. On February 12, 1992, seven occupiers were arrested. State and federal police removed all furnishings and possessions. That same day the IRS announced its acceptance of a \$5,400 bid from Daniel Franklin and Terry Charnesky (a couple living in nearby Greenfield), and the tax resisters reoccupied the house. Ironically, Franklin and Charnesky were unable to take possession of it until April 15th, when all but a few of the vigilers had gone to the Greenfield IRS office for tax day protests.

After being ousted from the house, vigilers spent most of last year camped

outside the front door in the "Pipe Dream," a tarp-covered structure made of PVC pipe. Early on the Saturday morning before my mid-October arrival the "Mobile Unit" (MU), built especially for the coming winter months, was moved onto the site. This insulated, two-room, 10' x 20' structure was built by volunteers at the cost of only a few thousand dollars for materials. Furnishings include a woodburning stove, bunk beds, propane heat and lights, and storage shelves.

Attacks on Vigilers

Ten days after my arrival, I returned to the Bay Area—in a wheelchair. As the result of a violent physical attack by Franklin, I came home with a whiplash back injury, and a severely sprained foot that kept me on crutches for several weeks. On Wednesday, October 28, we were moving the MU further back from the street to comply with local zoning laws. Franklin drove his car into a group of vigilers standing near the MU in an apparent attempt to keep us from moving it back. After striking a vigiler with his car, he got out and ran into the house.

Minutes later Franklin reappeared and charged into one vigiler, then came at me. When he knocked me backwards, I dropped my arms to my sides in a gesture of nonresistance. He lunged forward and slammed me across the hood of his car, stepping on my foot at the same time.

Colrain, Massachusetts

Several nearby vigilers screamed, and he stopped. Although Franklin's supporters occasionally engage in violence, this was the first time he's been involved—and the first time a vigiler has been seriously injured. Franklin, a part-time cop, now faces criminal charges.

The Valley Community Land Trust owns the land under and around the house. It claims that Franklin and Charnesky have no legal right to occupy its land and is attempting to evict them. In this case, Massachusetts Land Court could set historical precedents for WTR land trust litigation around the U.S.

A Catalyst for Activists

Some people question whether this vigil will ever accomplish anything, and if so, what? In my opinion it already has. It's been a magnet, attracting legendary political figures from around the world. One of them, Daniel Ellsberg, was so moved by a speech Kehler made before going to prison for draft resistance during the Vietnam War that he decided to release the Pentagon Papers. Who could've ever guessed one speech by a relatively unknown political activist would hasten the end of a war that spanned decades. The vigil has provided a great catalyst for activists with many different values and beliefs to come together for a single purpose. It has also brought war tax resistance into the public eye in local, national, and international media.

I highly recommend a stay at the vigil for anyone who wants to participate in a nonviolent action of historic significance. It could be marketed as a combination retreat, workshop, and vacation for peace workers. Imagine activists from all over the world coming to share their experiences



Police arrive after attack on vigilers

with local activists, and learning the history of the Colrain action in particular and war tax resistance in general.

When coverage is sparse the War Tax Refusers' Support Committee may be able to pay partial airfare for people who can stay a week or more. For information call Traprock Peace Center at (413) 773-7427, or Bob Bady at (413) 624-3776. If you'd just like to offer your support to the vigilers in the MU, call (413) 624-8858. Donations are also needed. Send to: WTRSC, c/o Marcey Goldstein, Treasurer, RR1, Box 18A, Northfield, MA 01360.

Uncle St. Nunzio is editor of the Northern California War Tax Resistance newsletter, Taxing Times.

Update

In May, the Franklins went to court and got an injunction against the vigilers, declaring that no one can protest within 100 feet of their property. However, because the leaseholder is a land trust, this is disputed. The IRS claimed that they could seize the leasehold as well as house, but the land trust never recognized the Franklins' leasehold. This dispute is still in court, and could take years to resolve. If decided against the land trust, it could threaten land trusts in general.

On Thursday June 9, supported by about 100 demonstrators, ten people trained as team went onto the property. After about two hours, ten or so state troopers arrived and tried to persuade the ten protesters to leave, but none would. After arrest, the ten refused to give names or post bail. 8 were released the next day with no charges, and the other two were expected to be released soon.

As *GroundWork* went to press, meetings were being held to determine the next course of resistance.

from C.T. Butler, Maine



Northern California War Tax Resistance

On January 17, several dozen California war tax resisters stormed downtown Oakland IRS offices and delivered a symbolic "notice of seizure" as an act of solidarity with the Colrain vigil.



Cumberland Green Bioregional Council Builds Bridges...

Uniting Conscious Communities

1993 — and our gang at the Cumberland Green Bioregional Council reared its "green head." For a group that is so far flung, spread out (and far out), we really get it together when we have to. All of the other gatherings are usually pretty loose, but our Winter Gatherings at Nashville, which are to allow for more serious exploration of issues, have to click like well-oiled machinery.

Well, Brookmeade Congregational Church graciously invited us back, whew. It is a neat space and has good energy. Lots of work was needed to set the stage for the weekend, and the "Gang of Four," our lovely construction crew, took time off to set the whole thing up.

Friday night came, and we gathered at the "House of Leith" and viewed slides of England, Scotland and Ireland courtesy of Carl Evertson, who spent more than three months there, observing traditional agriculture in the Hebrides, monoculture forestry in



Photos

top: Khorki Smothers and Judy Mattox talk after the opening panel discussion on "Building Bridges — Uniting Conscious Communities"

middle: Land Trust Workshop

bottom: Drumming was an important part of the Gathering

photos by Al Levenson

Scotland, and the Green movement in England.

Saturday morning the opening session, "Building Bridges — Uniting Conscious Communities" filled the sanctuary with people. This year, the planning committee planned a panel discussion at which members of the Farican American community who are involved in environmental issues could express their concerns to our organization.

The panel, consisting of Khorki Smothers and Sizwe Herring, gave the audience an idea of what we can do to help heal some of the wounds that are caused by racial disharmony. It seemed to me that the people in the audience were really eager for some ideas as to what they could do to help with a better understanding between them and people of color.

There is so much work to be done. It's so easy to live our lives in our own little cocoons and never reach out. We are still as segregated as when I came to this country 30 years ago. Oh, we live in the same neighborhoods and ride the same buses, but we are so wrapped up in our own daily worries

continued on page 50



HEALING HOMOPHOBIA AND HETEROSEXISM

Compiled by *Margo Adair & Shea Howell*



NOTE: Use the following as a basis for discussion. It will further understanding and appreciation for queer identified people. It is good to explore these issues in a group setting. You may want to begin by having people share their experiences with one other person—each taking turns reflecting on the Riddle Scale.

Homophobia and heterosexism hurt everyone but are the most accepted and pervasive prejudice in our culture. Mis-information and false stereotypes are perceived as reality, making it that much more difficult to educate people to the truth. Homosexuality is found throughout history, different cultures, and nature. Sexologists believe that gay and lesbian people comprise at least 10% of the population, and in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association asserted that homosexuality was normal. (This 10% describes only those people whose orientation is exclusively homosexual. If we include other sexual minorities and everyone who engages in any homosexual activity, we're talking about the majority of American citizens.)

Hate crimes perpetrated against sexual minority people are on the rise and likely to be the most common kind of hate crime. These crimes have actually increased in those areas where there have been anti-gay referenda. In Colorado, there was a reported 87% rise. Only 5 metropolitan areas (San Francisco, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago, New York, and Boston) track homophobic hate crimes. The total reported in 1992 was nearly 2000. This reflects a steady rise in homophobic violence over the past five years. Twenty-two states still have archaic sodomy laws on their books. Discrimination is the norm. People's lives and integrity are at perpetual risk.

Attitudes Towards Sexual Diversity: The Riddle Scale

The Riddle Scale is a model to understand people's various responses to homosexuality. It includes four negative and four positive levels of attitudes. The negative attitudes contain an element of dominance rather than equality. Notice where you are on the scale and note what you might do to move to the most positive level and also how you might help others do the same. If you are gay/lesbian or bi notice where you fall on the continuum in regards to your attitude toward yourself and your peers. We recommend reading and viewing the works of queer identified people.

NEGATIVE LEVELS OF ATTITUDES

Repulsion: Gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexuals are sick, crazy, immoral and sinful which justifies changing or eliminating them.

Pity: Queers are somehow born that way and should be pitied. The goal is to help these poor individuals be as "normal" as possible.

Tolerance: Homosexuality is just a phase of development that many people go through and that most people "grow out of." Thus, gays, lesbians and bisexuals must be protected and tolerated like children.

Acceptance: Heterosexuals need to make accommodations for queer identity. This attitude does not acknowledge that another's identity is of the same value and importance as one's own. For example, "I don't even think of you as gay; you're just another person."

POSITIVE LEVELS OF ATTITUDES

Support: Gay men and lesbians deserve legal and civil rights. Regardless of one's own comfort with homosexuality, people should treat others fairly.

Admiration: Being gay or lesbian in this society takes strength. Open to examining one's own homophobic attitudes.

Appreciation: Diversity in people is a good thing and gay men and lesbians are part of that diversity. Willing to confront homophobia in oneself and others.

Embracing: Gay men and lesbians are indispensable in our society. Recognizes their leadership has contributed to the vibrancy of U.S. culture and to struggles for social justice. Views them with genuine affection and delight. Acts as an advocate for all queers..

(Adapted from Dr. Dorothy Riddles' Scale of Homophobia, 1987) For a complete printing, write Campaign to End Homophobia, PO Box 819, Cambridge MA 02139.

Kinsey Research on Sexuality

This is based on the work of Dr. Alfred Kinsey in the 1940's and 1950's. It shows a broad spectrum of sexual behaviors. Instead of picturing sexual behavior as either heterosexual or homosexual, Kinsey developed a seven point continuum based on the degree of sexual responsiveness people have to members of the same and members of the other sex:

- 0 — exclusively heterosexual
- 1 — predominantly heterosexual, incidentally homosexual
- 2 — predominantly heterosexual, often homosexual
- 3 — equally heterosexual and homosexual
- 4 — predominantly homosexual, often heterosexual
- 5 — predominantly homosexual, incidentally heterosexual
- 6 — exclusively homosexual

The estimated percentages of the general population are as follows:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
50%	15%	12%	9%	6%	4%	4%

13% of all women had experienced orgasm in a sexual activity with another woman sometime in their lifetime;

37% of all men had experienced orgasm in a sexual activity with another man sometime in their lifetime;

17% of college educated women and 24% of women with graduate degrees had at least one homosexual experience since puberty; and 60% of all men had some type of homosexual relationship before they were sixteen.

(The research was conducted in a time when women generally reported lower sexual activity; this may explain why the rates for activity between women are generally lower. It was also conducted over a decade before the Stonewall Rebellion which launched the current Gay Liberation Movement.)

If you would like additional materials to combat homophobia or information on trainings please write *Tools for Change* c/o Groundwork at the address below or call (415) 861-6838.



Rape and Forced Pregnancy

The Assault on Reproductive Liberty in the Former Yugoslavia

Since the beginning of hostilities in the former Yugoslavia, international human rights groups report that people of all nationalities and religions have been subjected to a myriad of human rights abuses and war crimes. Rape and intentional impregnation of women appears to have occurred with particular prevalence. Moreover, growing evidence suggests that prolonged detention and/or the unavailability of abortion have forced many rape survivors to continue with unwanted pregnancy and childbirth — consequences of rape that can magnify and prolong the destruction of dignity, health and family life wrought by violent sexual abuse.

The systematic rape of women in order to traumatize, demoralize and destroy an enemy in war is not new. The use of rape as a weapon dates as far back as the Trojan War and continues to this day in the civil wars of Liberia and Peru, as well as in the former Yugoslavia. Other examples include the United States Revolutionary War, the "rape of Nanking" in China, the abduction of "comfort women" in Korea in World War II, and the Bangladesh war of secession in the 1970's. In these and other examples, rape is not incidental to the aggression; it serves a strategic purpose in itself.

A team of European Community investigators has determined that although estimates vary widely, the most reasoned estimates indicate that around 20,000 women have been raped in the war in the former Yugoslavia. At least some of these rapes were committed in particularly sadistic ways, so as to inflict maximum humiliation on the victims, on their family and their community." The U.S. State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1992 concluded that systematic rape has been used, largely against the Muslim population, by the Bosnian Serbs as part of their "ethnic cleansing" campaign. The European Community team also reported that "in many cases there seems little doubt that the intention

is deliberately to make women pregnant and then to detain them until pregnancy is far enough advanced to make termination impossible, as an additional form of humiliation and constant reminder of the abuse done to them. Many of the rapes are reportedly committed with the intent

to impregnate women so that they will bear the children of their captors."

Reports of the experiences of refugee rape survivors have emerged slowly from the former Yugoslavia.

Those who have been interviewed have related horrific stories of abduction, repeated rape, and detention.

Evidence of systematic rape and forced pregnancy has been especially prominent with regard to Bosnian Muslim women. But rape is most often a gender-specific form of abuse. Women are made the particular targets of this violent deprivation of human rights because they are *women* — no matter the ethnicity of the victim. And it is primarily *women* who bear the resulting physical, emotional, and social scars. Rape and forced pregnancy, in the former Yugoslavia as elsewhere, grievously deny women their reproductive liberty. As weapons of war, both rape and forced pregnancy are war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law. It is imperative that these abuses cease, that they be condemned and redressed under international legal norms, and that gender-sensitive humanitarian aid be promptly provided to the women who are suffering from these deprivations of human dignity.



Late Flash

Greens & Earth First! Disrupt Opening of Vermont Biotech Center

About 35 demonstrators organized by Earth First! and the Central Vermont and Northern Vermont Greens disrupted the official opening of the Stafford Research Center for biotechnology at the University of Vermont on May 17.

The official ribbon cutting ceremony, featuring three current or former U.S. senators, was cancelled, and the event forced indoors.

Earth First! activists arrived early and occupied the official podium. When the speeches were moved to the nearby UVM Med School, demonstrators packed the halls, chanting and howling all morning, much to the chagrin of those inside.

Activists see the new Center as part of a campaign to recruit biotechnology corporations to Vermont. For more information, handbook, or action alerts, contact the Vermont Biotechnology Working Group, 15 Barre St., Montpelier, VT 05667, 802-229-0800.

from Brian Tokar, Vermont



Polish Activists Blockade Dam Project

[This story was recently sent to GroundWork in a xeroxed newsletter published by the Polish Green Brigades, a coalition of Polish environmentalists — see end of story for details. Although the events described took place about a year ago, we are excited to be able to share this story with our readers.]

1992 saw continued protests against the construction of the dam across the Dunajec River, near Czorsztyn. The protests were organized by the Freedom and Peace Movement ("Wolnosc i Pokój, WiP").

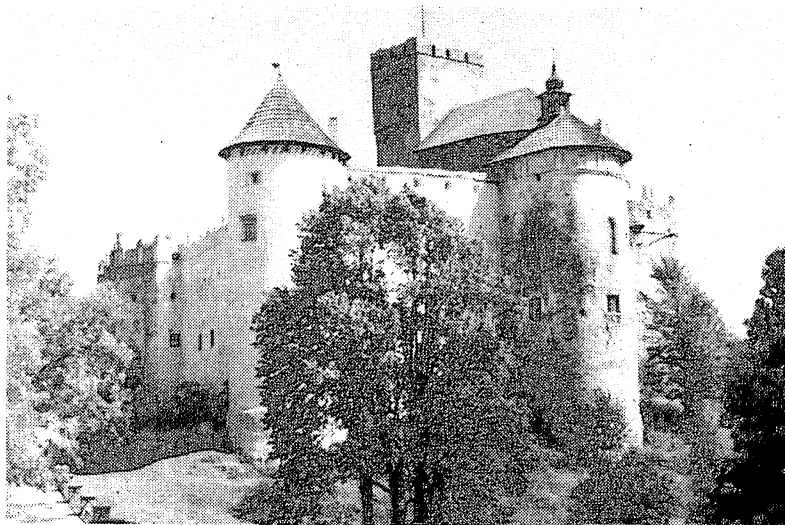
Although the dam was designed in the 1960s, construction did not begin until 1976. Not unlike many other major investments under communism, the construction was meant to reflect the "power of progress," not necessarily fitting into any complex scheme of regional development.

The ecological specifics of the site were not taken into account, nor was the financial feasibility of the project considered. Although there is a general consensus that the whole project, in terms of finance alone, is a non-starter, the chief investor stubbornly argues that construction must continue because so much has already been destroyed already, and so much money has already been invested.

For the time being, however, the castles of Czorsztyn and Niedzica still are where they used to be, and the Pieniny National Park is still full of unique, indigenous plants.

Greens, Anarchists & Environmentalists Join in Direct Action Campaign

Although the siting of the dam sparked an immedi-



One of the historic castles that would be destroyed by the Dunajec Dam

ate public protest, no decisive, organized action was taken until 1989, when WiP initiated the "Stop the Dam" project. They were joined by the Anarchist Federation, the "I Prefer to Be" Movement, and the Green Federation.

150,000 people signed a petition calling for an end to construction on the dam — the largest ecological petition ever circulated in Poland. However, the government ignored it.

On July 1, 1992, WiP resumed direct action against the ongoing construction work by blocking access roads to the site. Construction workers responded by driving a vehicle right into a crowd of protesters, crushing one woman's legs and another man's foot.

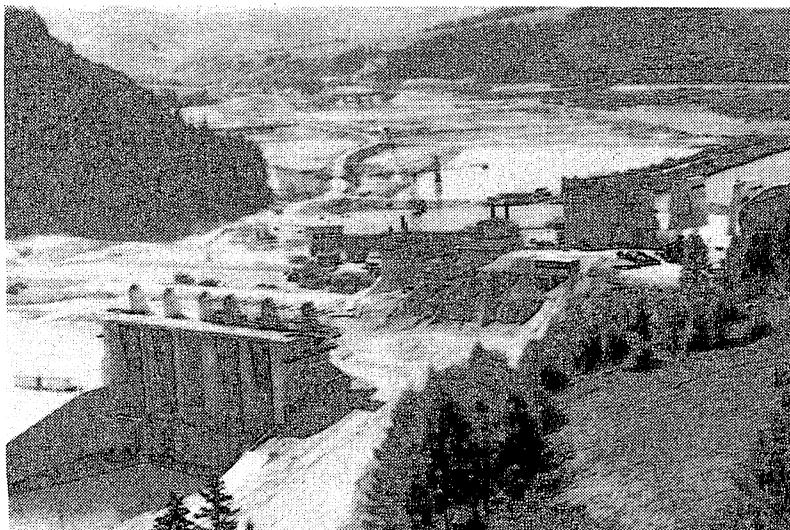
Although the vehicle driver was arrested, he was later released. Meanwhile, authorities raided and ransacked the homes of some

protest participants. Four people were charged with resisting arrest. As of September 1992, only one fine had been levied against a protester, though, a significant improvement on the previous year's protests.

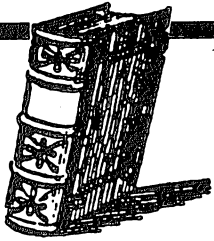
*Tomasz Poller, Freedom and Peace Movement (WiP)
(translated by Sigillum Ltd, edited by GroundWork)*

You can support the environmental movement in Poland by subscribing to the English edition of *Green Brigades*. Other recent articles include *Vegetarians in Poland*, *Social Obstacles to Environmental Improvement*, *An Assault on Polish Forests*, and *Animal Rights*.

Send your name and address plus an international money order (from the Post Office) for \$16 (USA), to "Zielone Brygady", Wydział Chemii UJ, Ingardena 3/100, 30-060 Krakow, Poland. Phone: 48-12-336377 ext. 234; fax 48-12-340515, 226306; email UCZWAWA@PLKRC11.BITNET



The partially-completed Dam



Taking Care of Business

Citizenship and the Charter of Incorporation

by Richard L. Grossman and Frank T. Adams

Citizens originally defined corporations through state charters — the certificates of incorporation, write the authors of this 30-page booklet. "Every state still has the right to revoke corporate charters... To exercise sovereign authority over corporations, we must take back our political authority over state governments."

\$4 + SASE (52¢ postage), from Charter Ink/CSPP, PO Box 806, Cambridge, MA 02140. Bulk rates available.

Circles of Strength Explores Alternative Communities

Circles of Strength, edited by Helen Forsey of rural Ontario, helps turn the desire for a home-base of family and friends into reality by sharing the experience and reflection of over 20 members of communities as diverse as First Nations, religious orders, rural communities, activist camps and urban neighborhoods. The contributors offer practical advice and inspiring visions about ways to construct circles of mutual caring and support — and to relearn the wisdom that comes from enduring relations of people and places.

Contributors to *Circles of Strength* include Sonia Johnson, Marge Piercy, Rachel Bagby, Laird Sandhill, Joan Newman Kuyek and Margo Adair.

From the *New Catalyst Bioregional Series*, New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave, Philadelphia 19143. \$9.95 US/\$11.95 Canada. Add \$2.50 postage first book, 75¢ each for more.



Environment Under Fire

Imperialism and the Ecological Crisis in Central America

by Daniel Faber

"Daniel Faber's concrete description and analysis show brilliantly what has happened to Central America's environment. He offers an all-important political lesson for ecological movements: how the exploitation of nature goes hand in hand with the exploitation of people, and how struggles for ecological stability almost invariably involve struggles for social justice."

— Alexander Cockburn

Daniel Faber shows how Central America's social and ecological crises are rooted in the system of capitalist economic development promoted by the United States. Focusing on the development of the major export crops — coffee, cotton, and cattle — Faber shows how the development of export agriculture resulted in social marginalization and the ecological collapse of the peasant subsistence sector throughout Central America.

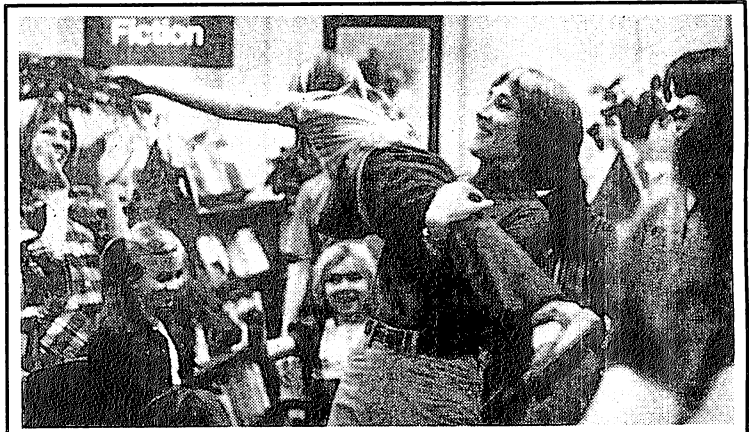
He then turns to an assessment of the Nicaraguan programs under the Sandinistas, and looks at the role of U.S. economic

and military policy in destroying the environment.

A final chapter focuses on building a movement in the U.S. and in Central America to transform American policy.

Daniel R. Faber has worked with the Environmental Project on Central America (EPOCA), Earth Island Institute, and is an assistant professor of sociology at Northeastern University in Boston.

\$16 paperback, \$36 cloth, 320 pages, Monthly Review Press, 122 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001.



Just Enough to Make a Story

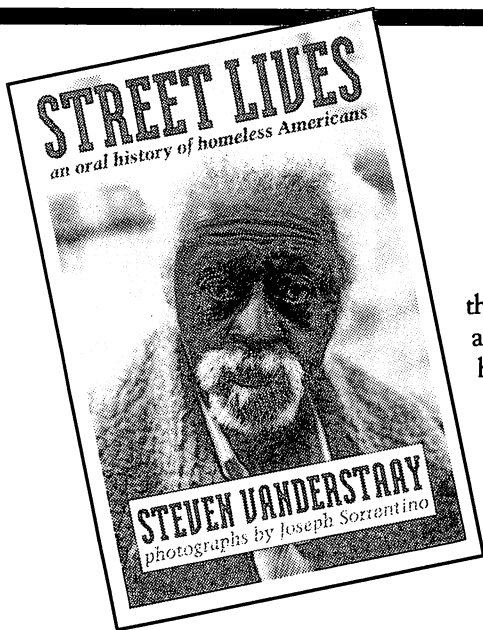
A Sourcebook for Storytelling (3rd Edition)

by Nancy Schimmel

"For parents, teachers, librarians, group leaders, and people who just like to tell stories, this is a first-rate introduction to the art, based on Schimmel's years of professional storytelling and teaching... *Just Enough to Make a Story* contains an amazing amount of useful material." — Betty Bacon, Plexus.

Chapters in this expanded edition include choosing a story and a medium, stories in service to peace, active heroines in folktales, ecology stories, as well as many resource lists.

\$14.75. Sister's Choice Books and Recordings, 1450 Sixth Street, Berkeley CA 94710.



Street Lives

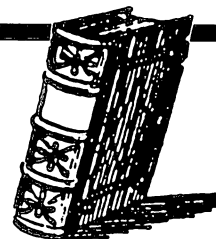
an oral history of homeless Americans

by Steven Vanderstaay, with
photographs by Joseph Sorrentino

Street Lives offers a glimpse into life without shelter in the USA. More than 30 homeless people share in their own words their stories and circumstances, providing first-hand descriptions of what it is like to be homeless and how thin the line is between having a home and not.

The women and men in *Street Lives* offer insights into the social and economic conditions that cause homelessness, and advice on which sorts of programs work to provide homes and jobs without compromising self-reliance and dignity.

\$14.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling, New Society Publishers, 4527
Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19143.



Men's Work: To Stop Male Violence

by Paul Kivel

Men's Work: To Stop Male Violence is on target. It grows from the author's experience with the Oakland Men's Project. It's got great exercises at the end of each chapter that ask all those questions I find it easy sometimes to avoid. "What were some of the names that were used in your youth to keep guys in the (Act Like a Man) box? Are there any that you use now on other people?"

And in a later chapter: "How do you respond when a woman doesn't meet your expectations. What is one way you have hurt a woman (physically, emotionally, or verbally) in the recent past? In what ways have you denied your actions?"

While the questions and the feelings they raise will give one pause, the prose makes for a quick and easy read. It describes the cultural supports that men receive from the time of birth for participating in violent and controlling behaviors towards women and others in our lives. Then it offers some clues about how we can lovingly confront ourselves and one another about violent and controlling behavior.

\$5.99 in paperback, Ballantine Books ISBN 0-345-37939-X.

reviewed by Hugh Esco

(Hugh Esco is active with the Atlanta Greens and with a profeminist men's caucus in the Greens/Green Party USA).

Women Respond to the Men's Movement

The Men's Movement has been discussed on talk shows, described in best-selling books, and lampooned on prime time TV, but do we know what it is? In this anthology, some of the most articulate feminist thinkers of our time assess the movement's depth, complexity, and implications from a range of perspectives.

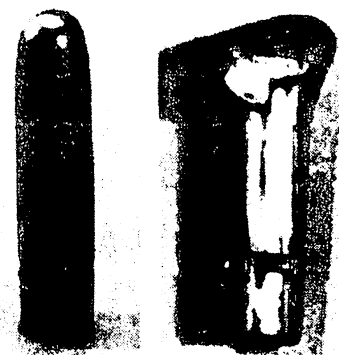
"Make no mistake about it: Women want a men's movement. We are literally dying for it... We have to

use our instincts when deciding what to trust. We need to ask questions... Then women can find allies in this struggle for a future that has never been." — Gloria Steinem, from the book's Foreword

Women Respond to the Men's Movement is edited by Kay Leigh Hagan, and is available for \$12 from Harper San Francisco, 160 Battery St, San Francisco, CA 94111.

Flatland Catalog Offers Alternative Books, Magazines

Flatland is a distributor of alternative books, magazines and pamphlets, and has produced catalogs since 1986.



The fall 1992 catalog, a 32-page tabloid, features reviews of books on conspiracies, covert operations, and assassinations, as well as sections on AIDS, Cancer, Orgone, UFOs, Situationist literature, Commies for Christ, and more.

Flatland also lists other catalogs of alternative media, such as Amok and Small Press Distribution.

Everything in the catalog is 100% guaranteed, and can be returned for credit or refund. Customers get the next catalog free. Or you can get a copy for \$3 from Flatland, PO Box 2420, Ft. Bragg, CA 95437.

Daughters of Abya Yala Testimonies of Indian Women Organizing Throughout the Continent

— See pages 26-27 —

Conferences & Calls to Action

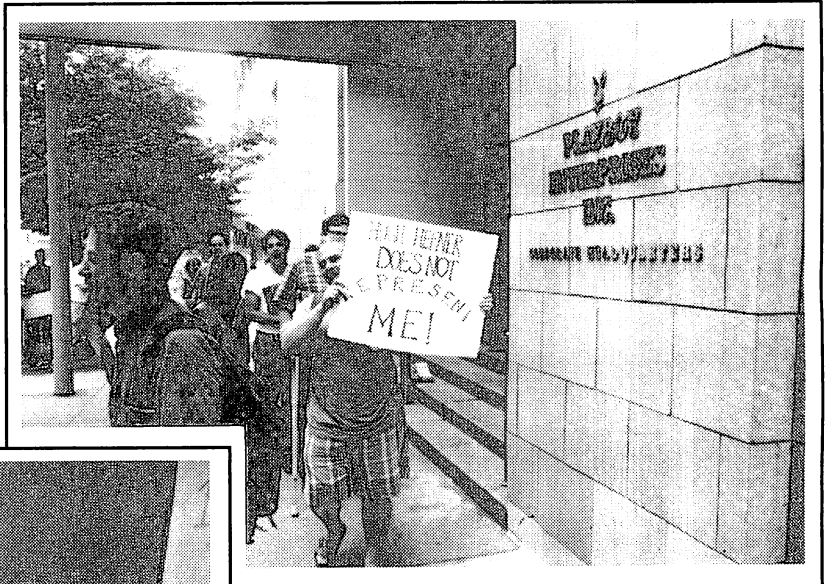
18th National Conference on Men & Masculinity

Men's Community Builds Multicultural Links

"Building Bridges for a Multicultural Men's Community" is the theme of the 18th National Conference on Men & Masculinity, scheduled for July 8-11 in San Francisco.

The conference is sponsored by NOMAS, the National Organization of Men Against Sexism, an activist group supporting a broad range of positive changes for men. NOMAS is pro-feminist, gay-affirmative, and works to enhance the quality of men's lives.

NOMAS includes men of many backgrounds as well as feminist women. At the Men & Masculinity Conference, one can expect to meet teachers, social



activists, service providers, musicians, ministers, businessmen, therapists, domestic violence and AIDS workers — all interested in new possibilities for men.

Men & Masculinity 17 Memories

The 17th National M&M Conference, "Coming Home to New Families," was held last July in Chicago. It included keynote speakers and panels, and over 60 workshops on men's issues, including feminism, gay/bisexual issues, political action, multicultural awareness, mythopoetic approaches, spirituality, parenting, personal growth, and homophobia.

The conference tradition of including a direct

action focused on Playboy headquarters. Endorsed by the Ending Men's Violence and Pornography Task Groups, the demonstration included a picket and speakout [see GroundWork fall 1992, page 41].

1993 Highlights

Culture & Arts are an important part of the M&M Conference. This year's programs will include a commissioned performance piece

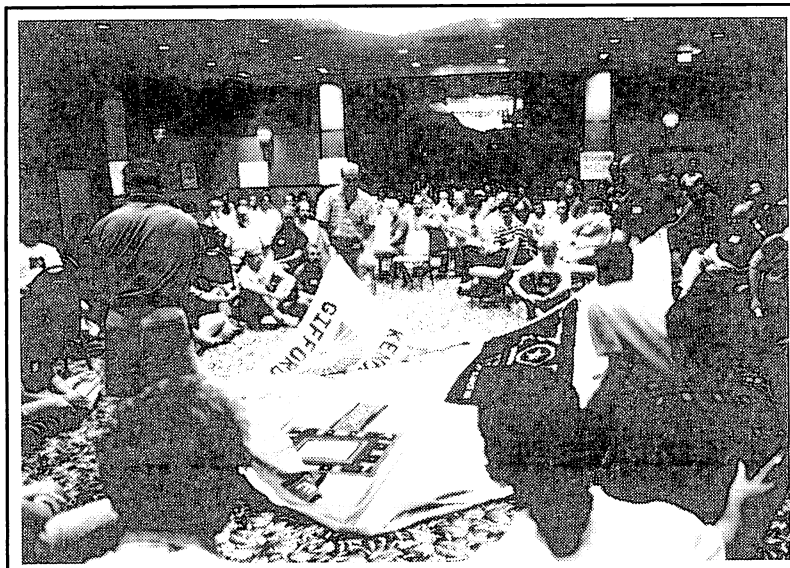
continued on page 50

Photos

top — Direct Action at the 1992 NOMAS Conference

middle — Affinity groups meet so people of like mind can mingle. Here are the Silly People, reminding everyone to keep a sense of humor

bottom — During the 1992 opening ceremony, the NAMES Quilt serves as a reminder of the loved ones, friends and colleagues AIDS has taken from us



Start a Food Not Bombs Group in Your City

You can begin feeding the hungry and working for peace by starting a Food Not Bombs group in your community. Food Not Bombs is a nonviolent all-volunteer network that provides free, hot vegetarian meals and political support to low-income people in over 25 cities in North America. Food Not Bombs is empowering, rewarding and fun!

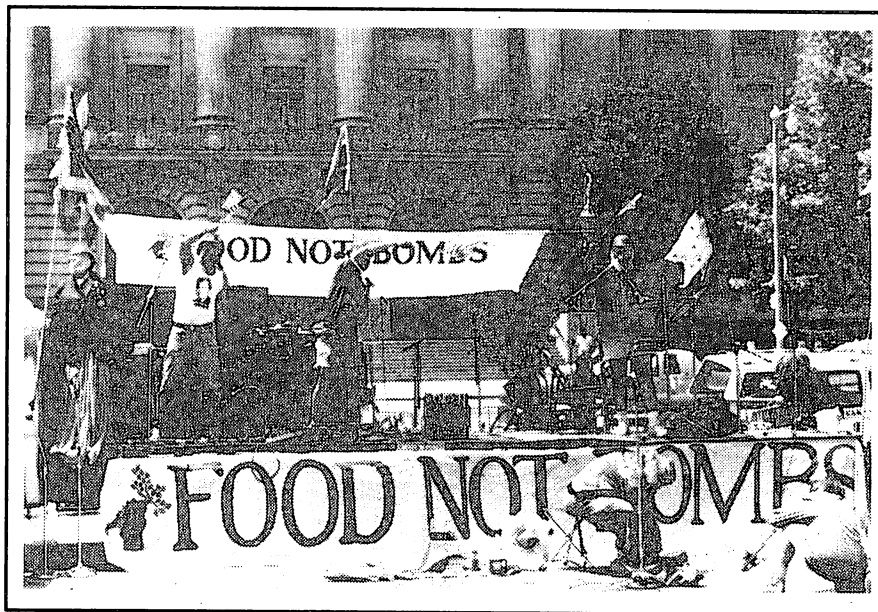
Food Not Bombs began in 1980 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when activists started recycling organic food that would have been discarded. The city government has supported the work in Cambridge, but Food Not Bombs groups in other cities like San Francisco have been harrassed and jailed for serving free food in public places.

Food Not Bombs activists have also organized around other issues such as housing reclamation in San Francisco and Portland, anti-nuclear work at Nevada Test Site, and the fight for Peoples Park in Berkeley (see story, page 45).

Send \$10 to Food Not Bombs for our helpful 128-page book that includes the steps for starting and maintaining a food recovery program, 30 vegetarian recipes for feeding 100 people, and logos, flyers and leaflets you can reprint.



Contact Food
Not Bombs, 3145
Geary #12, San
Francisco CA
94118, 415-330-
5030.



Food Not Bombs celebrated 13 years of free vegetarian meals with a concert at San Francisco civic center May 23rd. Among the bands were Funky Nixons (shown performing "We Support the Troops") Malibu Barbi, and Bedlam Rovers. Photo by Gene Wiens.

Food Not Bombs Harrassed in Several Cities

In April, police were interfering with Food Not Bombs in at least three cities. This level of harassment had not happened in FNB's 13 years of serving free vegetarian meals.

Seattle FNB has been told to move from downtown parks or face arrest. Volunteers have had to move around to stay clear of the police.

In Boston, police took FNB equip-

ment, literature and food during lunch on Boston Commons. FNB had not been previously bothered in three years of serving at this location. On May 4, several volunteers were cited for trespassing on Copley Square as they served a free lunch.

Santa Cruz FNB was served with injunctions against serving free food more

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Intentional Communities & Cooperative Living

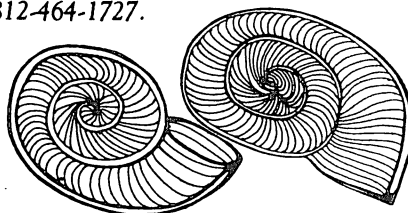
The Fellowship for Intentional Community is planning an International Gathering on Cooperative Living, to be held August 26-31, 1993 at The Evergreen State College on the Olympia Peninsula in Washington state.

The Fellowship is a network of intentional communities, networks, individuals, and other interested organizations across North America. The purpose of the gathering is to share visions, experiences, and systems for cooperative living, and to create an atmosphere of fellowship and alliance-building which will promote the

health and growth of the movement.

Cost will be about \$12-50 per day, depending on lodging and meal choices. Children welcome.

Contact the Fellowship for Intentional Community, '93 Communities Gathering, 8600 University Blvd, Evansville IN 47712, 812-464-1727.



GroundWork covers the grassroots — with your help!

GroundWork covers grassroots organizing around issues ranging from nuclear waste to health care, from direct action to organizing an Earth Day festival.

We want to hear about your work. Please send photos, stories, press releases — and be sure to add us to your mailing list!

See contents page for details, or call 415-255-7623

Announcements



GE Boycott Victory!

INFACT, the international corporate accountability group that won reforms in infant formula marketing through its 1984 boycott of Nestles, has announced that its six-year boycott of General Electric has succeeded in moving this major weapons contractor out of the nuclear weapons business. GE plans to sell its aerospace division, which includes its work at the Knolls Atomic Power Lab.

The environmental hazards at KAPL were detailed in INFACT's academy award-winning documentary *Deadly Deception*, which along with extensive grassroots action, including direct challenging of GE recruiters on college campuses, helped turn the tide in the campaign.

For more information on this and future INFACT work, contact INFACT, 256 Hanover St, Boston MA 02113, 617-742-4583.

The Future of the Wisconsin/Minnesota Northland — A Forum —

Forum Publications of Wisconsin, has just published *Forum for our Future* — local/global cause activists and advocates writing from, about, and for the northland of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Essays report on present local conditions, probable trends through the 1990s, and an alternative vision of what we can create for the future.

GroundWork contributors Walt Bresette, Jan Conley, Rick Whaley and Ellen Smith are among the two dozen contributors to this collection.

Single copies are \$9.95, 2/\$17, 5/\$37. Contact Forum Publications, 740 Round Lake Rd, Luck, WI 54853, 715-472-8721.

Former Workers Call for Continued Boycott of Pillsbury-Green Giant

Trabajadores Desplazados is continuing its boycott of Grand Met products, including Pillsbury, Green Giant, Burger King and Häagen Dazs.

The boycott was called because of the closing of union-organized plants in the U.S. and relocation of jobs to Irapuato, Mexico, where workers were fired for trying to organize a union. Grand Met is also charged with wasting and polluting vast quantities of water in their processing operations.

Boycott demands include justice for both U.S. and Mexican workers, and an end to environmental degradation.

Please join and publicize the boycott. You can also call Grand Met at 1-800-767-4466 and let them know how you feel, or write Sir Allan Shepard, Grand Metropolitan PLC, 11-12 Hanover Square W1A 1DP, London, Great Britain.

For more information, contact Trabajadores Desplazados, 434 Main St. #222, Watsonville CA 95076, 408-728-5671.

"Spirit Green" — Songs from Alaska

The Alaska Greens have released "Spirit Green," a recording of original folk music celebrating Alaska's natural environment and local culture. Songs are written and performed by members of the Alaska Greens. Available for \$11.50 ppd, from the Greens Clearinghouse, PO Box 30208, Kansas City MO 64112, 1-800-257-7336.

Third Force

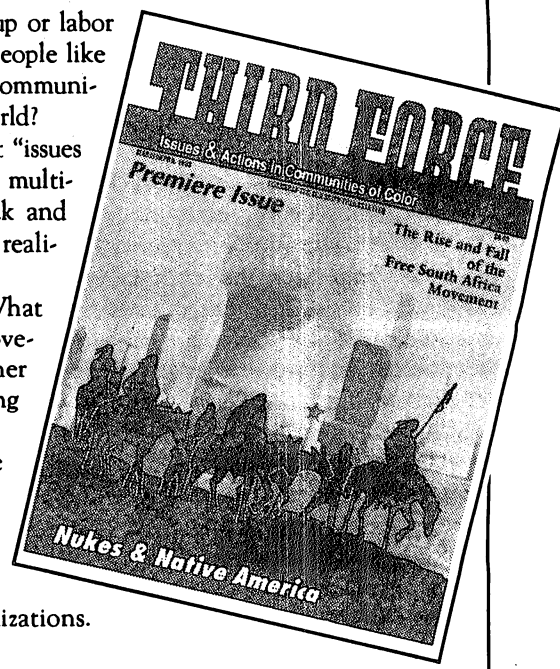
Issues and Actions in Communities of Color

Are you a member of a community group or labor union? Are you interested in reading about people like yourself, people who are organizing in their communities and workplaces for justice and a better world?

Third Force is a national magazine about "issues and organizing in communities of color." It's multi-cultural — we don't see things in just black and white. And it's independent — we cover the reality, not the hype.

Articles in the first two issues included What Ever Happened to the Free South Africa movement, Nuking Native America, On the Other Side of Aloha, Shot in the Back for Being Black, and more.

Third Force is published bimonthly by the Center for Third World Organizing. Subscriptions: \$22 for individuals and nonprofits, \$55 for libraries and institutions; \$10 for students, low-income, and dues-paying members of unions and community organizations. Bulk discounts available.



Announcements

Language School in the Land of the Maya

The Centro Lingüístico IXIMCHE (CLI) is a project of COJB'YIN RIQUIN CATINAMIT, which in Caqchiquel means "we walk with our people". An association of Maya Caqchiquel Indians, we are taking up the challenge of conserving and promoting our culture and our identity. We have created the language school as part of an integrated program of sustainable development. At CLI, we offer proven language instruction techniques, as well as the opportunity to share our Mayan religious traditions and ways of living.

The school is located in the town of Chimaltenango, in the central western region of the highlands, 50 minutes from Guatemala City and at a crossroads that leads to the country's principal tourist destinations. Unlike the larger cities where the tourists congregate, though, in Chimaltenango one has the opportunity to witness the true life of an Indian town.

Students are encouraged to stay with a Maya-Caqchiquel family. Beyond cultural exposure, this offers an opportunity to practice newly-acquired language skills. Following the custom of Maya generosity, the guest is taken in as a member of the family, which provides a private room and three meals a day. Assistance in locating hotel rooms is also available.

The Program

The program offers the student a choice of instruction in the Spanish language, or in one of two Mayan languages: Caqchiquel and Quiche. It features individual, one-on-one classes with teachers who are carefully trained and dedicated to sharing the cultural values of our community. We also offer weekly talks on various aspects of Guatemalan culture and history.

Daily classes of two, four or six hours are available. Instruction is Monday-Friday. Courses are tailored to match the student's particular areas of interest or needs. While courses are taught using immersion techniques, materials are available in vari-



ous other languages to consult.

Fees: 2 hours daily - \$30/week; 4 hours daily - \$50/week; 6 hours daily - \$70/week. A private room in a Chimaltenango home, including meals, is \$35/week.

A portion of the proceeds of the Centro Lingüístico IXIMCHE is dedicated to development of an educational and cultural center for Caqchiquel Maya children.

For more information, contact Grupo Maya Q'uj Samej Junan, PO Box 40892, San Francisco CA 94140, 415-824-2534, or the South and Meso American Indian Information Center (SAIIC), PO Box 28703, Oakland CA 94609, 510-834-4263.

Peoples Park Fight Continues

An Earth Day Rave/Garden Party and an anniversary concert on May 1st, 1993 marked 24 years of struggle and celebration in Peoples Park, Berkeley. The battle to preserve Peoples Park as a user-developed open space continues in the Park, the courts, and the halls of government.

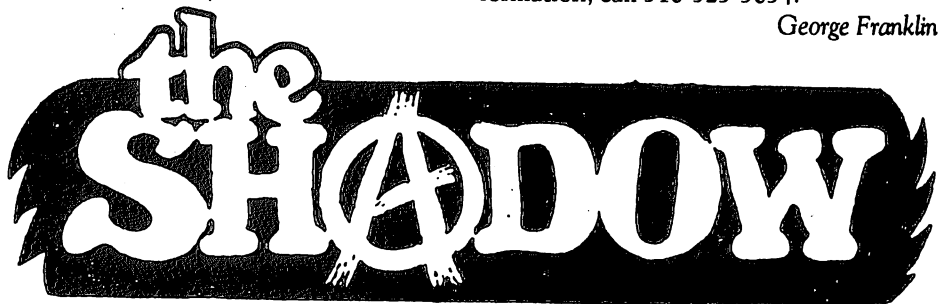
The University of California's SLAPP lawsuit, aimed at fining and harassing several Park activists, has already cost defenders thousands of dollars, and threatens the Ashkenaz dance club, a hub of local organizing. No end is in sight, as UC uses its taxpayer-funded legal department to attack South Berkeley. For more information on this suit, call 510-525-5054.

Hearings on the sexual harassment suit filed by two Southside activists against a UC policeman have been delayed by the court until probably 1994. For more information, call 510-525-3375.

Compromised and compromising city officials are threatening to put a referendum on Peoples Park on an upcoming ballot. Under the veneer of democracy, this maneuver would allow UC to buy the election far more cheaply than it has been able to defend the sports courts it built in the Park (see GroundWork, fall 1991).

Food Not Bombs-East Bay continues to serve free meals in the Park. Peoples Park activists set up information tables and displays every weekend — stop by if you're in the Bay Area this summer. For more information, call 510-525-5054.

George Franklin



INFORMATION IS STRENGTH • KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The SHADOW is the underground newspaper of New York City's Lower East Side, reporting on government and police corruption and violence, counter-cultural news, fighting the state through direct action, squatters' rights, homelessness, drug war and marijuana news, Anarchy, and more! Current and past issues are available by mail for \$1.00. Please send to: SHADOW PRESS, P.O.Box 20298, New York, N.Y. 10009

**GroundWork needs your
support —
See back inside cover!**

Western Shoshone

continued from page 19
been."

In early February, the Western Shoshone National Council (WSNC) sent a letter to the new President of the United States, requesting a meeting to discuss these issues on a nation-to-nation basis. U.S. President Clinton has not responded yet.

In the Year of Indigenous People, declared by the United Nations, it remains to be seen what the U.S. will do next. Bruce Babbitt, the new Secretary of the Interior, which oversees the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, greeted Native American leaders on January 7 in Washington DC, even before his confirmation, with the promise that the first responsibility of his department would be the protection of Native American sovereignty. He stated, "Indian sovereignty is a constitutional, historically accepted fact — there is no room to debate it."

Horses Released

On March 22, approximately 30 horses were released onto Western Shoshone range lands. These horses and other Western Shoshone nationalized livestock, managed by Mary and Carrie Dann, had been confined to corrals over the winter, since the November BLM raid.

At the livestock release, Raymond Yowell, Chief of the WSNC, stated, "The Western Shoshone National Council continues to be open to negotiations with the United States. Meanwhile, we must do what we feel is right. That is to release the livestock back onto the disputed lands."

Support is Urgently Needed

- Write letters to government officials or circulate petitions.
 - Send a donation to help with outreach and media costs, base camp supplies, etc.
 - Join base camp for two weeks or more to help with office work, lookouts, patrols, camp staffing, etc.
 - Attend a weekend training at base camp and remain on call.
 - Organize a film showing, radio show, meeting or demonstration in your community to spread the word and raise funds.
 - Be prepared to respond immediately to any new developments with media calls, demonstrations, banners, etc.
- For more information or to make do-

nations, contact The Western Shoshone Defense Project, General Delivery, Crescent Valley, NV 89821. Phone 702-468-0230, fax #702-468-0237.

Jennifer Viereck is office coordinator for Nuremberg Actions, PO Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006, 408-338-0147, fax # 338-6408.

Heidi Blackeye is field organizer for Citizen Alert Native American Project, PO Box 5339, Reno, NV 89513, 702-827-5511, fax #702-827-4299

Women's News

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(800) 845-FLOW.

Women's Choice sells fleece pads with nylon backing and Velcro "wings" for about \$5. Write Box 245, Gabriola, BC. VOR 1X0, Canada, (604) 247-8433.

Disposables

Johnson & Johnson's Stayfree Ultra Plus (\$3.30 for 20) has a super absorbent center made of spagnum moss covered by white paper. Because it is made of a natural material that is not bleached or dyed, the center of the pad is honey-colored.

Seventh Generation's non-chlorine-bleached pads are sold nationwide in health food stores and drugstores. Check your neighborhood vendors for supplies or call (800) 262-0042.

Other Methods

The Keeper: an FDA-approved bell-shaped soft rubber device that catches menstrual flow — a menstrual cup. Its forerunner was the Tassette. Reusable, it comes in its own carrying pouch and can last for years. Company President Lou Crawford notes that because "the keeper is earth friendly and wonderfully convenient," the company has more than tripled its sales since it began in 1987 and is experiencing its greatest success in Europe. The Keeper comes in two styles: A for after childbirth; B for before. Each is \$35 plus \$2 shipping. Write to The Keeper, Box 20023 MS, Cincinnati, OH 45220. It has a 3-month, money-back guarantee.

Sponges: though not FDA-approved (for fear women would wash them out in public sinks) sponges continue to be used by women. There's been some debate about the cleanliness of natural sea sponges; some women believe that Caribbean-culled sponges have fewer contaminants than Mediterranean ones. Prices range from \$1.99 to \$2.99 depending on size and

origin.

Diaphragms: some women use this contraceptive to catch menstrual flow in the same way the menstrual cup is used. Diaphragms must be fitted and purchased through a nurse practitioner or gynecologist. Price: \$20 to \$25.

Menstrual Extraction: a legal but somewhat controversial method used to remove the contents of the uterus during menstruation. The procedure is performed by self-help groups and clinics. For information call Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, a national network of 20 women's clinics: (213) 957-4062.

Milwaukee Earth Day

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families gathered for a parade around the neighborhood. Green flags were handed out along the way or placed on the littered yards of boarded up homes. Songs were sung, banners waved, bubbles blown, and more kids came out to see what was happening. The celebrants proceeded to a vacant double lot donated by the city, future home of the Open Door/Shoots and Roots neighborhood garden. Brief prayers were held to honor the day and the patch of earth that will give food and hope to a community turning itself around, and a young teen woman from the neighborhood broke ground and turned over the first shovel for the first year's planting.

Except for Harley the pig who left early with a fever (he recovered), a good time was had by all. A brief interfaith reflection concluded the day's events.

Long term goals for the center include community empowerment in this spiritually and culturally rich area; a community-based alternative school; self-initiated economic development; and organizing on the neighborhood's "environmental" problems — drug houses, abandoned houses, lead paint and lead in the soil, and poisoned fish from the Milwaukee River that neighbors catch and eat.

For more information, and to share your art and ecology skills and tutoring talents, please contact Urban Green Schools, c/o Milwaukee Area Greens, PO Box 16471, Milwaukee WI 53216.

Portland Housing Takeovers

continued from page 34

with the encampment and those who dropped by to share food with us, to see what the energy was like in our communi-

ty for public takeovers. There was sporadic interest, but mostly little enthusiasm.

Alternative Models

We waited some months, and then began discussing the subject again. The reactions were a little better, but the energy wasn't strong, so we began to simply open a few houses, and, through stencils and literature, to encourage others in our community to do the same.

We studied the city-owned homes and chose them based on accessibility, security, and the sympathy of neighbors. Upon opening these houses, we realized they needed much work, so some of us in FNB! focused on fixing the houses up a bit and telling those who needed a place to stay the whereabouts of the houses.

To date we have lost one house, but two are still undergoing rejuvenation. From time to time someone from the Burnside and Albina communities of Portland comes up and stays and helps for a while. We scavenge almost all the materials we use, and get advice from friends in the construction field on problems. The renovations have to be done as quietly and elusively as possible.

If and when public takeovers actually do come to bloom here, we hope to have one or both of these other houses somewhat up to speed to show that there are viable alternatives to the shelters and that no one should have to take the degradation of the shelters or the dangers of the streets. Housing should be free and people working together for themselves and their communities can make it actual.

There is no housing problem in this country, only an equitable resource distribution problem.

We can be reached through the Rosebud Commons Resource Center, 503-796-8100, or c/o ARA 1951 W. Burnside #1928, Portland OR 97209.

Washington DC Housing

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was the one occupied by the veterans. The police came and moved the supporters of the homeless outside the chain and barbed wire fence and locked the gates.

Police were expected to raid the building next morning. About 20 people slept outside the gates waiting and watching. However, as morning came, nothing occurred. Police just kept patrolling.

On Friday night, the Mayor finally de-

cided to meet with the homeless veterans. She said that if they came out, she would set up a task force. After a long discussion, the weary men left their home and headed for the Community for Creative Nonviolence shelter, with some hope they would be heard.

That was over two months ago. All the buildings are bricked up now. The former residents have no trust now in a city that betrayed them.

Across town, the government attempted to shut down a homeless shelter consisting of several trailers in the Foggy Bottom area, but have met determined resistance.

The dynamic actions of these homeless people and their supporters show that a system that produces homelessness can be challenged. But without broad-based political action to demand an end to homelessness, the homeless will continually run into a brick wall of government intransigence. The Clinton administration and local governments need to hear loud and clear that the creation of jobs and affordable housing must be at the top of the nation's agenda.

To get involved, contact the Community for Creative Nonviolence at 202-393-1909, or the Coalition of Homeless and Housing Organizations at 202-265-2371.

Edited from the Peace Letter, published by Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW, Washington DC, 20008, 202-234-2000.

Rockies Alliance

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the Environmental Law Society (Wash DC); international members include the Alberta Wilderness Association and several branches of the East Kootenay Environmental Society (Canada), Sahyadri Ecology Education Documentation (India), and the Irish Society for Preservation of the Rockies (Ireland).

The Alliance is actively supporting the Sportsman's Coalition and other local groups who have filed notice of appealing the Cove/Mallard sale. They are also working to alter the scope of national park planning, which would keep the wilderness areas of the Northern Rockies intact. They have worked with former Representative Peter Kostmayer (D-PA) and other government officials on the first congressional bill that attempts to manage nation-

al forest lands with a bioregional approach. This bill, The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) looks beyond state boundaries with a broad-scale regional and national approach that strives to preserve the country's ecological wilderness as distinct, functioning ecosystems. Parks would be developed based on biological makeup of the country's geography rather than randomly selecting areas scattered through the states. It would expand by almost half the amount of protected wilderness in the U.S., and give authority to designate federal land to all Americans rather than only those who live nearby.

The bill would benefit the region in several ways, protecting and supporting the numerous native plants and animal species while enhancing the local economy. It proposes a 14 million acre wilderness preserve that would cover portions of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, a Northern Rockies Bioregion of vast wilderness lands that are crucial to protecting endangered species, wildlife habitat and tourism as well as the essential wild character of the American West. The development of a Wildlands Recovery Corps would create a surge of employment possibilities in restoring areas that have been damaged by poor land management practices.

Locally, the bill provides the protection needed to ensure that the region's finest resource remains untouched, preserving one of the oldest forests in the country. Nationally, the bill would change the entire planning process for land use planning, increasing the amount of parkland while creating a variety of jobs. Working with industry professionals and environmentalists, the Alliance has created a plan that meets the needs of both sides and provides for a rich and varied wilderness that each of us can call our own.

What You Can Do

If you would like more information about the Cove/Mallard Sale or the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, you can contact the following groups:

Ancient Forest Bus Brigade, Route 1, Box 14C, Lenore, ID 83541.

Wild Rockies Earth First!, Box 9286, Missoula, MT 59806 (406) 721-4255.

Alliance for the Wild Rockies, PO Box 8731, Missoula MT 59807, 406-721-5420, fax 406-721-9917.

If you want to write letters to the fed-

eral government to express your feelings about the Nez Perce and other national forests, please write to the following:

Rep. Gerry Studds, Rep. George Miller, Rep. Bruce Vento, and your own congresspeople at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20515.

Conscious Communities

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that there is little time to go beyond that. So we send ten dollars to save the rainforest and feed the poor in foreign countries. It's our neighbors right here that we want to take a closer look at. Can we invite a child over to spend time with us or maybe take an older neighbor shopping? We all work and it's hard to find time, but maybe a small gesture right here in our town would do a world of good.

Lining the hallway were several fine displays, one of them by John van der Harst on wet/dry recycling. John traveled to facilities all over the country to see how other communities deal with solid waste.

Our own Sandy Helper, Esq., had one of the finest displays set up on the Culture of Survival and we were able to browse through it all day. Sandy works on bringing leaf protein to third world countries by teaching people how to use plants at hand to extract protein. Also, he teaches people how to make solar ovens to cook food, just basic survival which many war-torn countries need. Sandy is leaving us for a year to go to Nicaragua to help others help themselves — our own green ambassador!

Back at the gathering, we raised lots of good green energy by having Harvey Baker auction off all the donated items. Harvey is getting to be a real pro — he even brought speakers. With David Baker at his side, the three of us had a great time "encouraging" people to give their best at bidding. Thanks for that support. The money as always pays for rental of the building and for paper, printing, and stamps for flyers and the newsletter.

The day just flew by with all sorts of workshops, from Alternative Politics and Green Urban Development to Land Trusts, Permaculture and Bioregionalism. Jane Hussain, Howard Switzer, Peter Bane, and representatives from The Farm, Dunmire Hollow, Short Mountain Sanctuary, and South Cumberland Land Trust (all In-

tentional Communities) came and gave their time and shared with us the knowledge they had gained.

Land Trusts and Communities seemed to draw the largest crowd. I guess most of us are interested in sharing land and resources. It seems to make sense that like-minded people would want to live close to each other. And the many approaches to sharing land that have been tried since the 1960s now serve as examples for what to do and what to avoid. All the other workshops seemed to tie into that theme.

Skeeter and Loose Change played their hearts out Saturday night at Windows on the Cumberland and brought the house down. We danced until we dropped.

Noris Dinett gave us a really well thought out program on Human Ecology. It wasn't a talk, but an extremely involved mixture of music and dance and then sharing of feelings of how people in this country must unite, of forgiveness for the sins that our early fathers visited upon those people who were brought here as slaves. It brought up in me a need to ask forgiveness of my friends whose people had been hurt by the actions of my own people.

Outside, the drumming was great. More and more of our drummers are of a new generation. They bring such enthusiasm to the circle, and the young "fire maidens" dancing around the fire really added to the whole experience.

Thanks again to all of you who helped make this weekend possible. We'll see you at the next gathering. Love and peace.

by Doris & Ayla, with Milo Pyne.

Edited by GroundWork

*For more information, contact the
Cumberland Green Bioregional Council,
615-292-0720*

Men & Masculinity

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coordinated by San Francisco artist Keith Hennessy; ritual performance involving poetry, chant, dance, mask and song by the Noah Project; A Capella harmonies by Street Sounds; humorist Charlie Varon; men's songster Geof Morgan; Blackberri, one of the country's best known black gay artists; and a performance by Art of Being Human, a four-player troupe.

Over 60 workshops, on themes as diverse as those at the 92 Conference, are planned. There will also be a multicultural keynote panel, and an experiential key-

note session by the Equity Institute, focusing on multicultural organizational work.

Attending the M&M Conference is an eloquent statement of support for those working for positive change. It says clearly that you believe that we as men must take a part in creating a more equal society.

Please Join Us! You can attend our conference in San Francisco, work on a task group, join NOMAS — even if you do not become an active participant, your membership is greatly appreciated and contributes to the work of the group.

The collective efforts of NOMAS members remind us that we are not alone in working to bring about change.

Conference registration is a sliding scale based on income, and has meal and housing options.

To get a registration form and a tabloid filled with information on the 1993 Conference, call the M&M Conference Hotline, 1-602-577-7234.

*Edited by GroundWork —
thanks to Jeff Parker and Tom Mosmiller.*

March on DC

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yell erupted and everyone joined in. It felt so good to feel what it was like to be in the majority and not worry if someone would be offended if you grabbed your lover's hand or rested your weary head on her shoulder. For that sweet moment of time, we were the majority.

The March itself was like nothing I have ever experienced. I have attended about a dozen marches on Washington since becoming an activist, and none of them approached the size of this event. We arrived at the mall at 9:30 Sunday morning to hear the pre-march program and already the grounds were so packed that we couldn't see the performers. Musicians, comedians and speakers as varied as Joann Loulan and Jesse Jackson assembled from all parts of the country (including Sky Is Blue from Anchorage, Alaska!).

People arrived in a continuous stream for the next six hours. It took seven hours to get all of the marchers down the parade route, and there were twice as many spectators as participants. In spite of the delays, the stifling heat and smog, and the vendors running out of sodas and popsicles, the atmosphere was definitely gay, not grumpy.

People were dressed in the variety of

stylish T-shirts with slogans such as:

- I can't even march straight
- I'm not gay but my boyfriend is (accompanied by another man with "Boyfriend" across his shirt)
- Obey me
- I've come out of the closet into the living room and put my feet up
- NO ONE KNOWS I'M GAY

And there was a band of gay men dressed in evening wear with lovely hats bearing signs, "Lift the Ban on Gays in the Millinery."

At the end of the parade route there were more speakers and entertainers. Everyone stayed on the mall until the sun set and then dispersed into DC restaurants and nightclubs to continue the festivities.

I marched with the Green Party contingent and felt very proud that day to be a Green. We formed a "Queer Caucus" last January and designed a Green Party brochure which we distributed at various events. We carried green and lavender balloons and signs with slogans like "Greens are Lavender Too." As we walked down the parade route, people shouted "Yea, Green Party!" Needless to say there were no Republicans officially present, although there was a small Democratic Party contingent. Bill Clinton was noticeably absent, however. I was heartened by my fellow Greens, most of whom were straight, who had traveled from such places as Georgia, Minnesota, Missouri and Colorado to support the caucus. The local DC Green Party sponsored a welcoming reception the night before the march that was attended by about 40 people.

A Seething Rage

Besides the march, there were a number of other great events. On Saturday, about 15,000 gathered to form a human circle around the Capitol building demanding that more be done about the AIDS epidemic. Saturday night, dykes took over the streets of DC, marching from DuPont Circle to the White House. Later, about 20,000 rowdy women assembled at the National Prick (Washington Monument) to watch a slide show and dance in the warm spring air (many of them bare-breasted).

Although the overall sense of the five days was positive and upbeat, below the surface was a seething rage. At several of the events we were reminded of our purpose for coming to Washington, to de-

mand civil rights of our society, which still believes that homophobia is an acceptable form of prejudice. The fact that no violence erupted is a tribute to the tolerance of participants.

The first such eruption nearly took place at the vigil honoring gay victims of the holocaust. A Friday night vigil brought about 5000 people to the newly-opened United States Holocaust Museum. One of the many speakers was Harvey Meyerhoff, chairman of the museum project. He spoke poignantly about the gay experience and pointed out that gay people suffered even more than other holocaust victims due to the fact that they could not share their experiences after the war because the post-war political climate was hostile towards gays. During Meyerhoff's speech a small group of fundamentalists gathered on the other side of the road chanting "Sinners, repent, you're going to hell!" Instantly a group from the vigil crossed the road and others followed. It seemed likely that violence would break out, but a group of peace makers diffused tensions.

The crowning event to the weekend's activities was a civil disobedience action outside the Capitol building Monday afternoon. The action, organized by ACT UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) contingents, demanded universal health care. About 1000 people gathered for a rally, and 50 were arrested after stopping traffic for half an hour.

Some divine force seemed to be blessing our weekend gathering. Friday morning the weather changed from cold and rainy to warm and sunny. The lovely weather lasted through Monday noon, until the last of the demonstrators was hauled away by police. Just then, a torrential downpour and lightening storm broke out, sending us furiously back inside, to return to our daily lives.

Kids' Mural

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mental destruction. The project raised the consciousness of the participants and provided an avenue for the children to express their concerns in a creative manner.

The mural project was done with the help of the Artists in Residence Program of the New Mexico Arts Division.

The unveiling of the murals was held at a SWOP festivity on October 31st, 1992, along with celebrations of Día de los Muertos and Halloween.

This article excerpted from Voces Unidas, published by SouthWest Organizing Project, 211-10th St, Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-247-8832.

Food Not Bombs

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than three times in a 90-day period as they served lunch on June 6. Police had been threatening the action beginning in April. Santa Cruz city attorneys had been working on this injunction for several months. It is not clear what action the city government will take, as it is clear that FNB will continue to serve free food.

For more info or local contact numbers, call San Francisco FNB, 415-330-5030.

by Keith McHenry

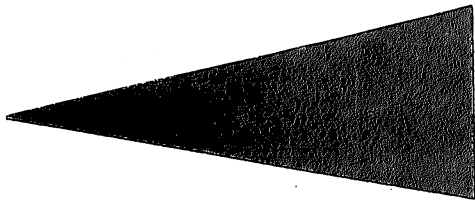
Livermore Lab

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marched to the main gate of the laboratory. There, the native elders performed a ceremony of reclaiming this land, which included pouring soil from the Nevada Test Site in a circle in the middle of the street in front of the facility. As wave after wave of people were arrested in nonviolent action at the main gate, fifteen people chained themselves to the gate of Sandia Laboratory (which designs the non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons) across the street. As the arrests ended, 200 police formed a line across the street, using their billy-clubs to push those who remained about a half-mile back to the action staging area. The county, stinging from criticism over this tactic, later pleaded that it was a way to shorten the demonstration, pay less police overtime, and lessen its current budget crisis. *Conversion Now* organizers responded that a better way to meet this crisis is to join the movement to pare the military budget and release funds to local governments to address basic needs.

In the wake of these successful actions — including another housing takeover in Oakland on June 8 — the Livermore Conversion Project plans to continue work for an end to testing, for the transformation of the nuclear weapons labs, and for money to address critical needs in our society. The Conversion Project urges similar coalitions to form in cities and towns across the U.S. Together, we can create the conditions for real peace, for real justice and for real environmental sanity!

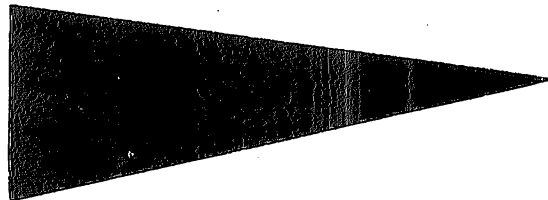
For more info, contact the Livermore Conversion Project, 415-567-4337.



What's happening at the grassroots...

Contacts and resources...

And lots of photos!



"Nuclear Waste, Everybody's Problem" — the theme section of our current issue focuses on government plans to site nuclear waste on Native American land, with a global overview of government nuclear-dumping plans and citizen resistance.

GroundWork features photos and reports from the grassroots. We plug you into alternative organizing across the country, such as:

**Social Justice
Ecology and the Environment
Art & Resistance
Women's Issues
Student Activism
Native American News
Community Organizing
Direct Action
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual News
Peace and Disarmament
Nuclear and Toxic Waste
and more.**

If you're working to change this society, we want you to see GroundWork. Give us a call.



Call 415-255-7623 for a sample copy

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